KOUNODORI

コウノドリ

THE STORK

1

FIRST

鈴ノ木ユウ

SUZUNOKI

9784063872279

雑誌 42674-27

ISBN978-4-06-387227-9

C9979 ¥562E (0)

1929979005627

モーニングKC
講談社 定価:本体562円(税別)

妊娠していると分かっているにもかかわらず、一度も健診を受けなかった妊婦のことを言う。
胎児の状態や母胎の感染症などの情報が何もないので、とても危険な患者。

全く予想がつかない破水。妊娠期間が1日、1週間と長くなるごとに赤ちゃんの救命率は上がる。
目標は救命率50%。妊娠期間24週、胎児の推定体重500g。

お母さんが麻病に感染していた場合、それが原因で流産や早産を起こすことがある。
出産時に産道の中で赤ちゃんに感染すると関節炎、肺炎、敗血症などの病気になる恐れがある。

産科医療は怪我や病気を治すわけではないため、通常の出産には保険はきかない。
だから正常の出産には産科医は必要ない。しかし、何かが起こるからこそ産科医は必要なのだ。

COVER DESIGN:RYUTA O WATANABE

KOUNODORI 1
THE STORK

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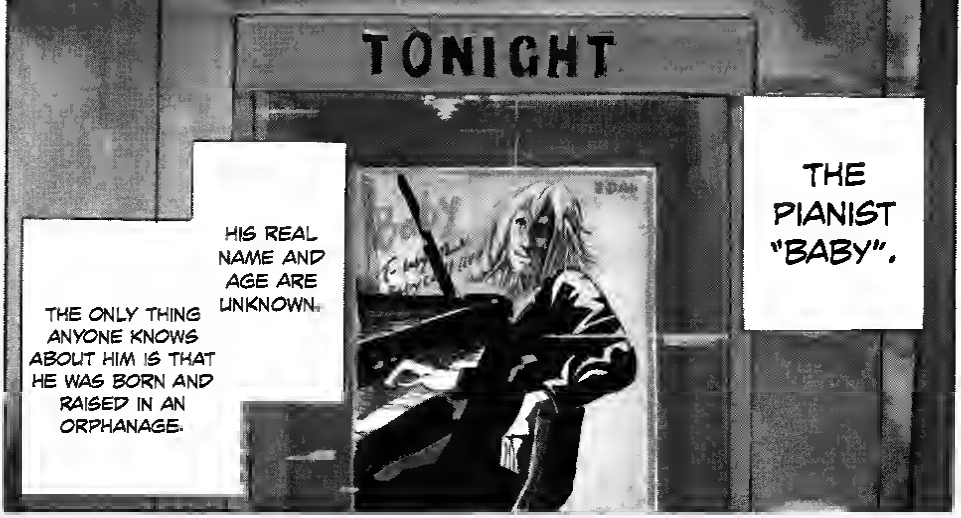
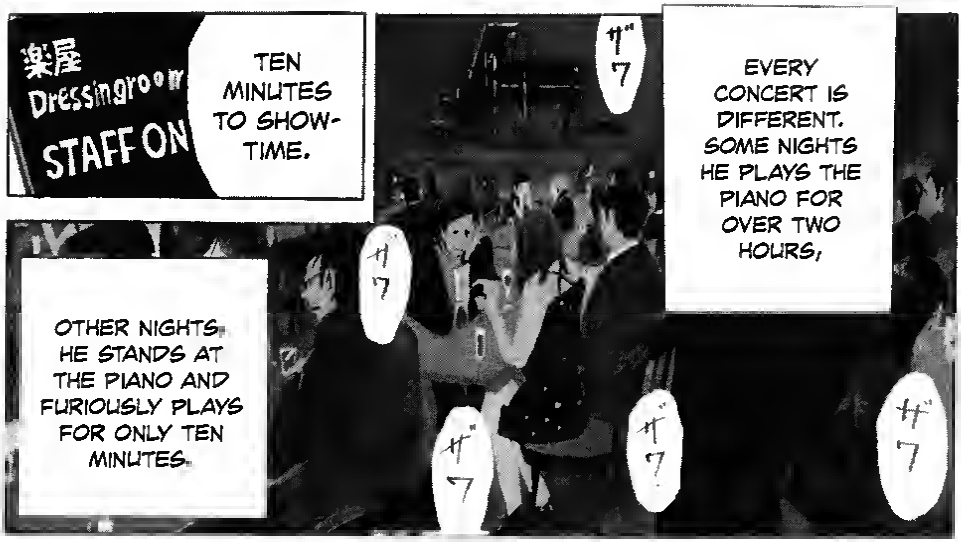
TRACK 1

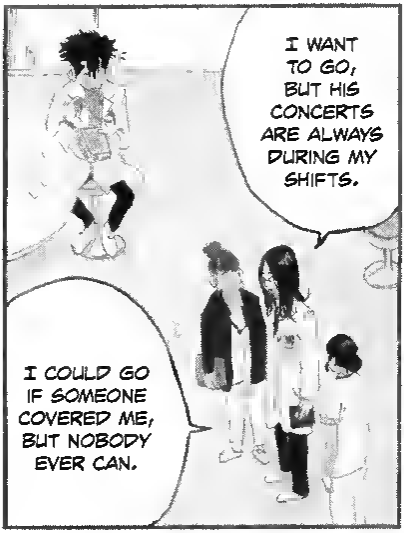
THE REJECTED PATIENT

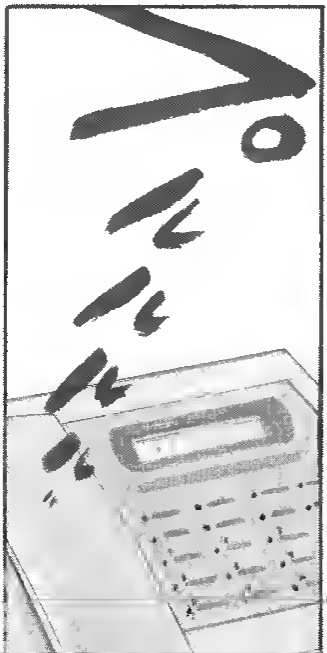

TONIGHT
THE PIANIST "BABY".
HIS REAL NAME AND AGE ARE UNKNOWN.
THE ONLY THING ANYONE KNOWS ABOUT HIM IS THAT HE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN AN ORPHANAGE.


楽屋
Dressingroom
STAFF ON
TEN MINUTES TO SHOW-TIME.
EVERY CONCERT IS DIFFERENT. SOME NIGHTS HE PLAYS THE PIANO FOR OVER TWO HOURS,
OTHER NIGHTS, HE STANDS AT THE PIANO AND FURIOUSLY PLAYS FOR ONLY TEN MINUTES.

THAT PIANIST...
...I DON'T KNOW.
YOU WON'T... BE CALLED FOR AN ENCORE TONIGHT, WILL YOU?
SOME NIGHTS HE DOESN'T TAKE THE STAGE AT ALL.

...IS AN OBSTETRICIAN NAMED KOUNOTORI SAKURA.
YOU CAN'T TELL A BABY TO HOLD OFF ON BEING BORN.

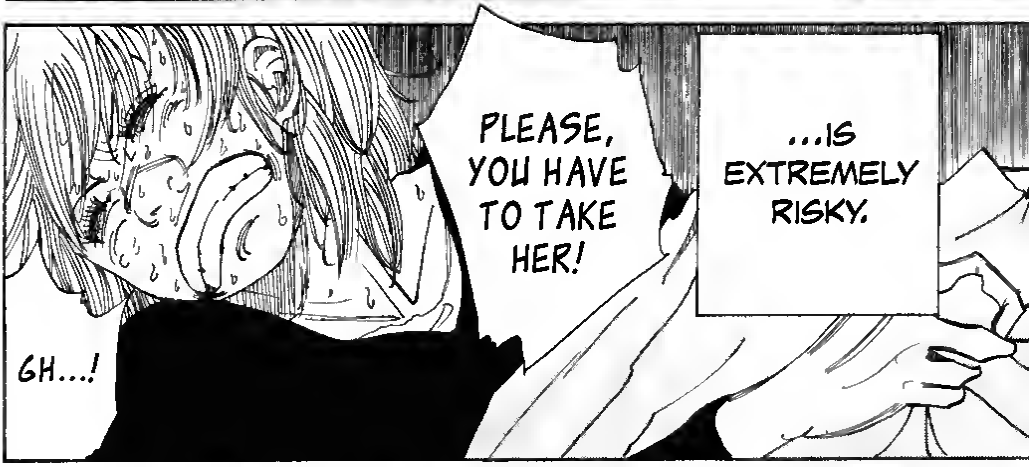




SFX: PHONE RINGING

WE HAVE A WOMAN IN LABOR HERE!
PLEASE TAKE THIS PATIENT!
SYSCALL 0
WE DON'T KNOW!
WHAT?
HOW FAR ALONG ARE YOU? HOW MANY WEEKS?
消防庁
!!
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A DOCTOR.
WHEN A PATIENT IS PREG-NANT,

NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT HER PREGNANCY. ACCEPTING A PATIENT LIKE THAT...
WE'VE CALLED FIVE OTHER HOSPITALS AND NOBODY WILL TAKE HER!
BUT REFUSES TO SEE A DOCTOR,

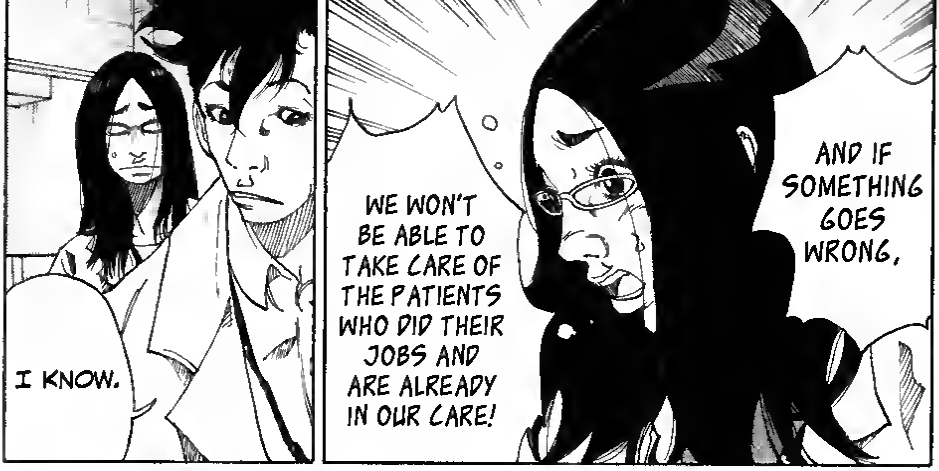

GH...!
PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO TAKE HER!
...IS EXTREMELY RISKY.

DO YOU THINK SHE'S FAR ALONG? IS SHE BIG?

WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE FOR AN HOUR!
.....

WHA... AH, YES! I THINK SO!

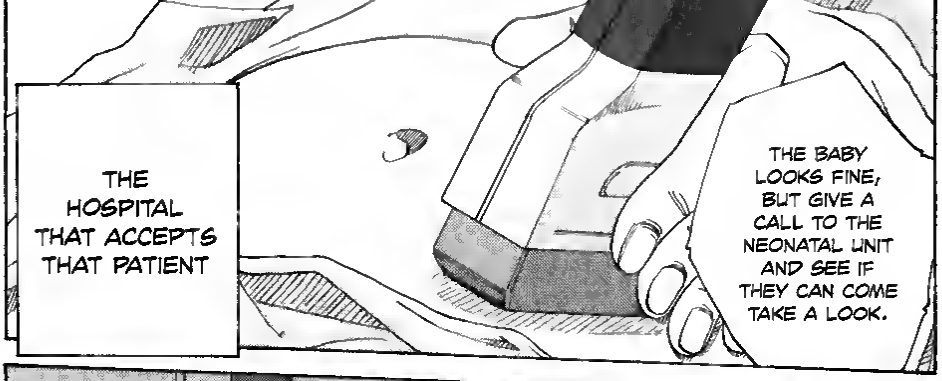
ガチャ
A PATIENT'S ON HER WAY HERE.
ALRIGHT.
BRING HER TO US.
SHE'S HAD NO PRIOR MEDICAL CARE.
WHEN A WOMAN LIKE THAT COMES TO A HOSPITAL TO GIVE BIRTH,
THE MEDICAL STAFF HAS TO GO IN BLIND.
WE'RE GOING IN BLIND!
WH...
.....
WAIT A SECOND, DOCTOR! THE NICU IS FULL...
CALL A SOCIAL WORKER, TOO.

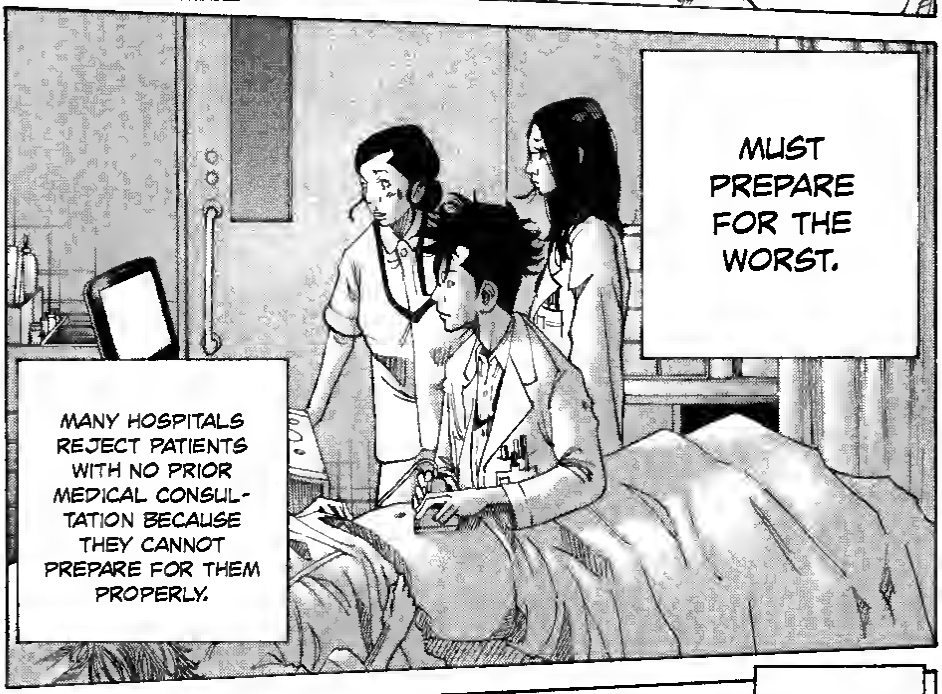

I KNOW.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE PATIENTS WHO DID THEIR JOBS AND ARE ALREADY IN OUR CARE!
AND IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG,

IT'S THE MOTHER'S FAULT FOR NOT SEEING A DOCTOR.
BUT THE BABY HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.

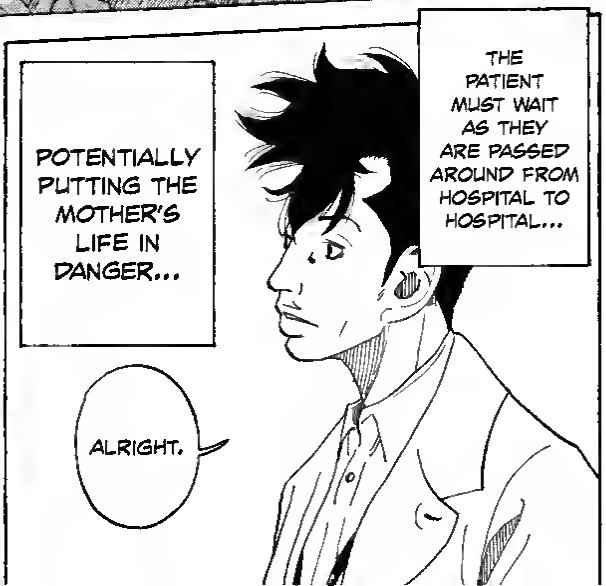
AND SEE WHAT STAGE OF LABOR SHE'S IN.
FOR NOW, SEE IF YOU CAN GET A GOOD GUESS ON HOW FAR ALONG SHE IS, AND THE BABY'S SIZE AND PRESENTATION.
SHI-MO-YA.
YES... I KNOW, BUT...

O... ON IT!
.....
LET'S ALSO FIND A BACKUP HOSPITAL THAT CAN ACCEPT HER OR THE BABY, IN CASE WE CAN'T HELP THEM HERE.
WHEN A HOSPITAL ACCEPTS A PATIENT IN LABOR WITH NO PRIOR MEDICAL CARE, THEY'RE TAKING A HUGE RISK.
PAGE DR. SHIMOYA!
GET A BLOOD TEST DONE, STAT!
HOOK HER UP TO AN IV!
CERVIX DILATION IS AT 8 CM!
100% EFFACE-MENT!
PRE-DICTED BIRTH WEIGHT IS 2600G!
BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO INFOR-MATION OR RECORD
OF HER OR THE BABY'S HEALTH.


THE HOSPITAL THAT ACCEPTS THAT PATIENT
THE BABY LOOKS FINE, BUT GIVE A CALL TO THE NEONATAL UNIT AND SEE IF THEY CAN COME TAKE A LOOK.


MUST PREPARE FOR THE WORST.
MANY HOSPITALS REJECT PATIENTS WITH NO PRIOR MEDICAL CONSULTATION BECAUSE THEY CANNOT PREPARE FOR THEM PROPERLY.

IT'S SAFE TO GO WITH A VAGINAL BIRTH.
AS WELL AS HER BABY'S.

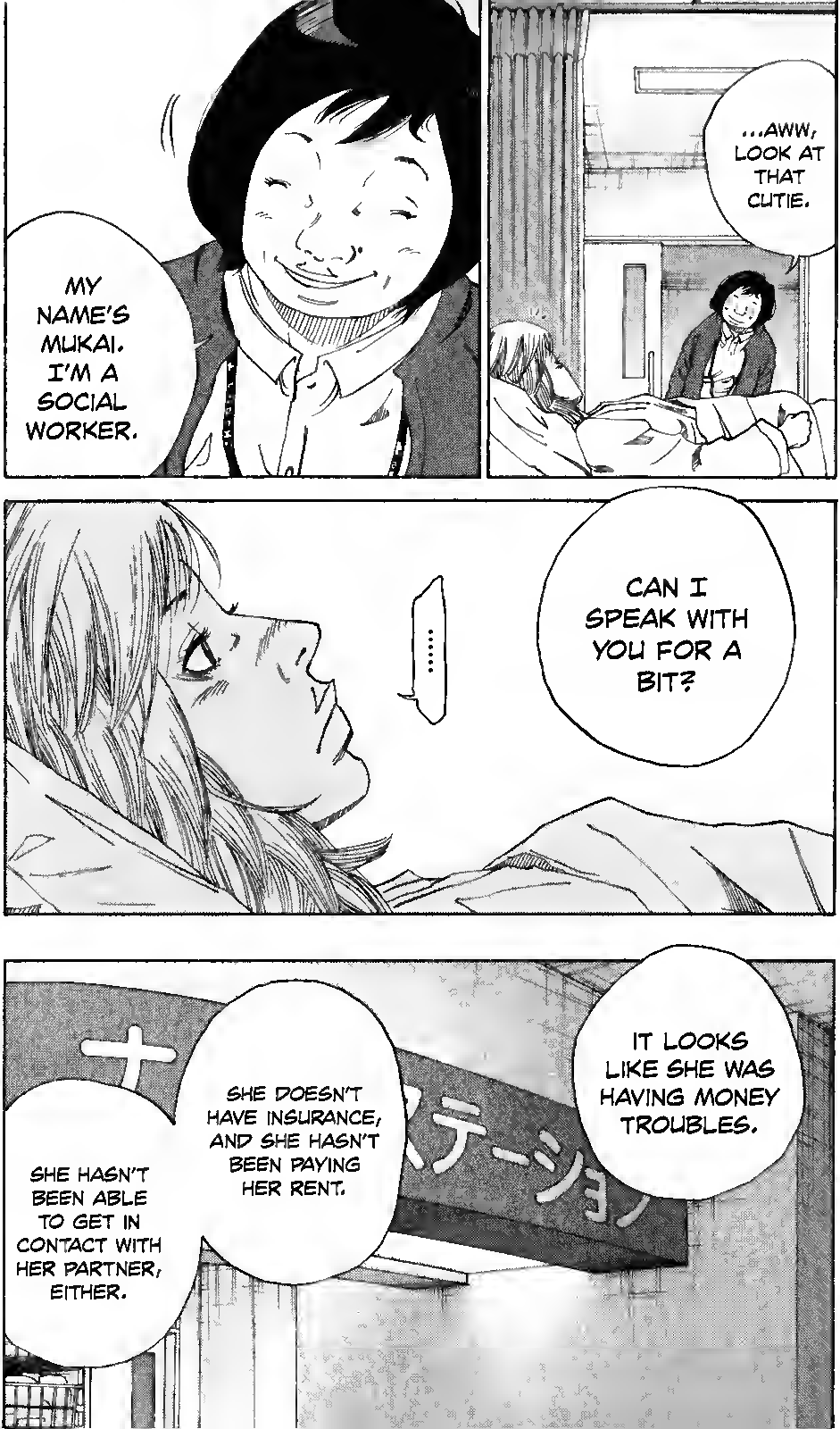

POTENTIALLY PUTTING THE MOTHER'S LIFE IN DANGER...
THE PATIENT MUST WAIT AS THEY ARE PASSED AROUND FROM HOSPITAL TO HOSPITAL...
ALRIGHT.

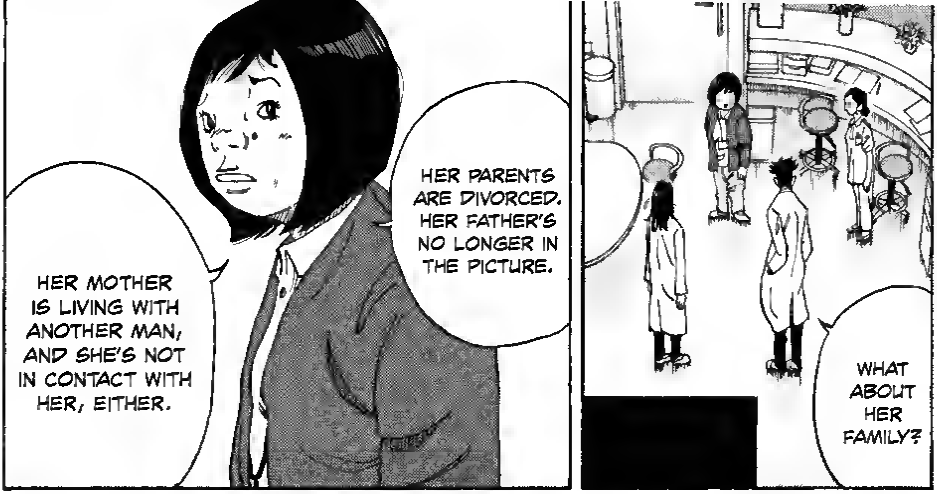
IF THE MOTHER IS INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS OR THE AIDS VIRUS,
JUST A LITTLE MORE!
I CAN SEE THE HEAD!
WHO ARE ALL IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HER
THEN THE DOCTORS, NURSES, AND MID-WIVES

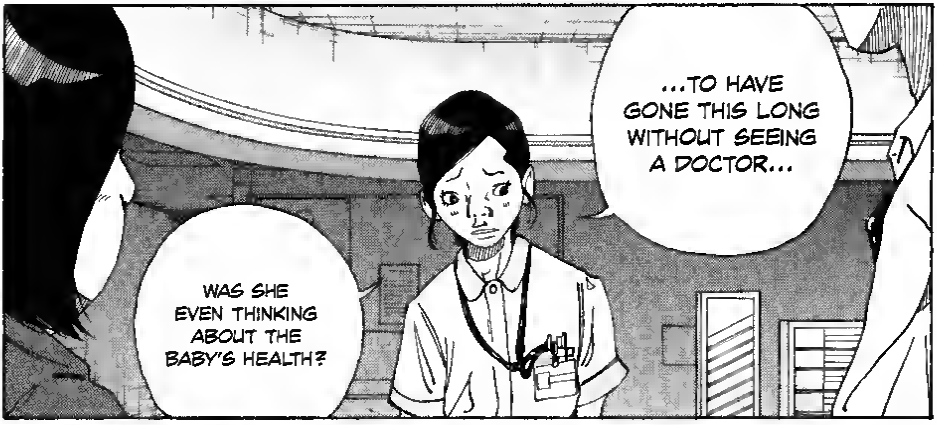
ARE PUT IN SERIOUS DANGER.

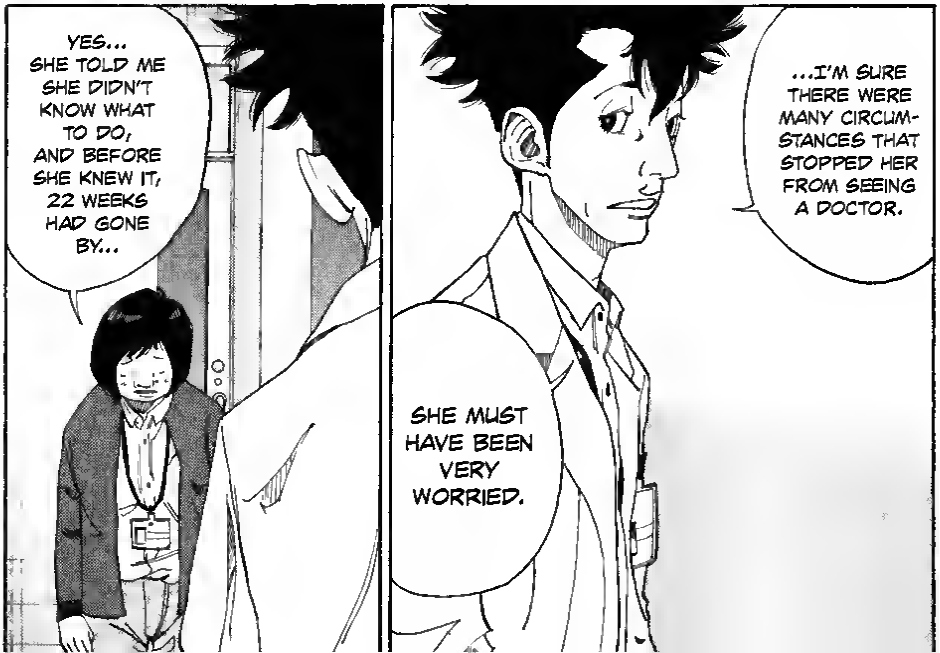
WAAAH!!
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL BABY GIRL.
.....
.....
SAY HI TO MOMMY!

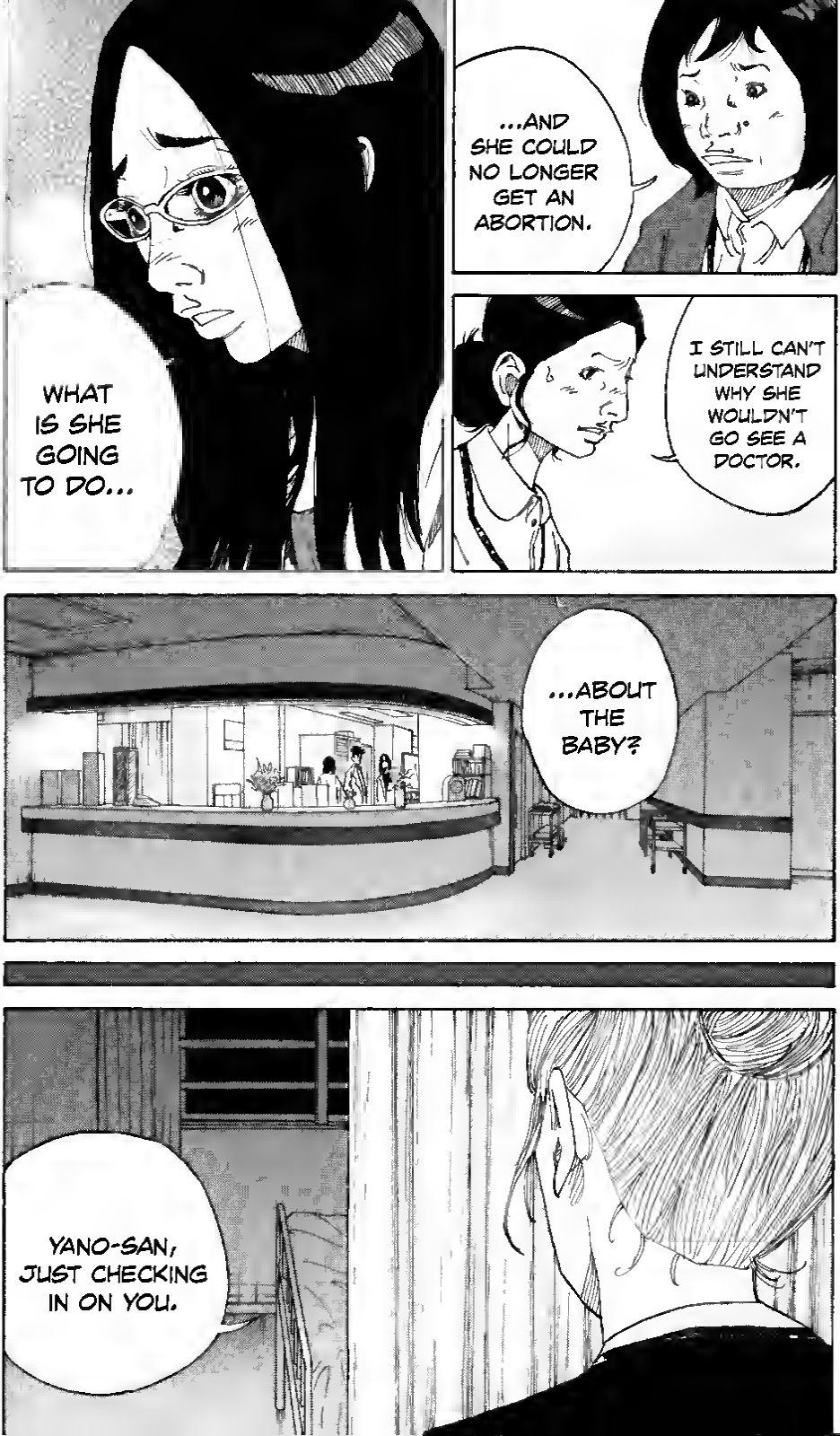
……
ARE YOU FUCKING SERIOUS? SHIT.
……
ARE YOU SURE IT'S MINE?
……
...I MEAN, SHIT.
I'VE GOT A GIRL-FRIEND.
……

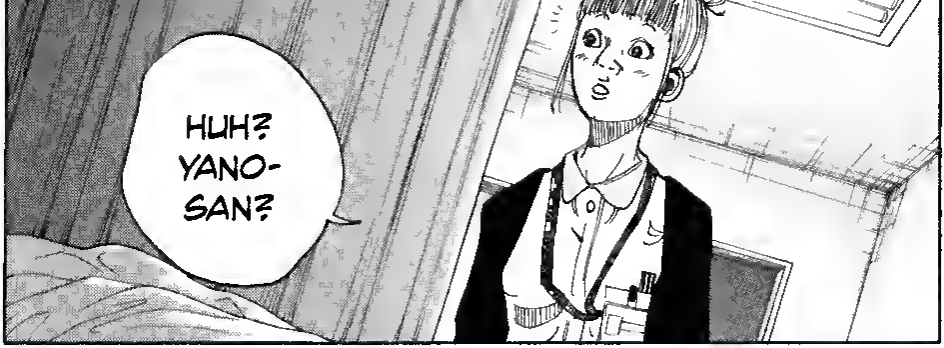

MY NAME'S MUKAI. I'M A SOCIAL WORKER.
...AWW, LOOK AT THAT CUTIE.
CAN I SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A BIT?
.....
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS HAVING MONEY TROUBLES.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE INSURANCE, AND SHE HASN'T BEEN PAYING HER RENT.
SHE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET IN CONTACT WITH HER PARTNER, EITHER.


HER PARENTS ARE DIVORCED. HER FATHER'S NO LONGER IN THE PICTURE.
HER MOTHER IS LIVING WITH ANOTHER MAN, AND SHE'S NOT IN CONTACT WITH HER, EITHER.
WHAT ABOUT HER FAMILY?

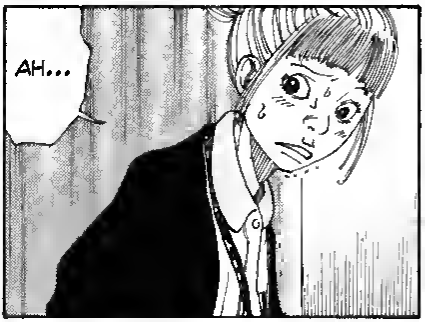

...TO HAVE GONE THIS LONG WITHOUT SEEING A DOCTOR...
WAS SHE EVEN THINKING ABOUT THE BABY'S HEALTH?

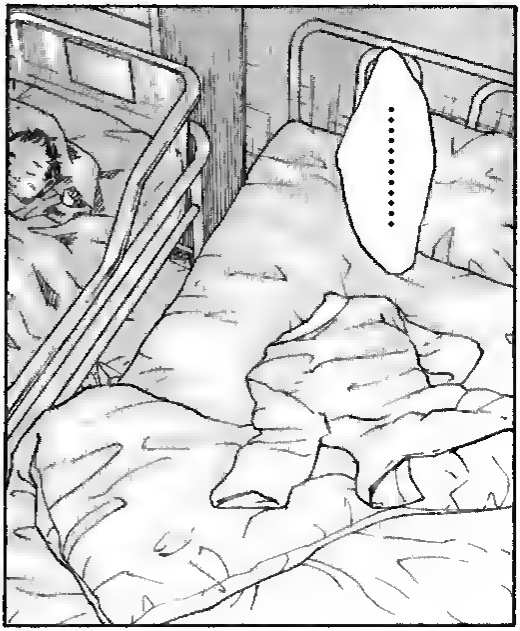

YES... SHE TOLD ME SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, AND BEFORE SHE KNEW IT, 22 WEEKS HAD GONE BY...
...I'M SURE THERE WERE MANY CIRCUM-STANCES THAT STOPPED HER FROM SEEING A DOCTOR.
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY WORRIED.

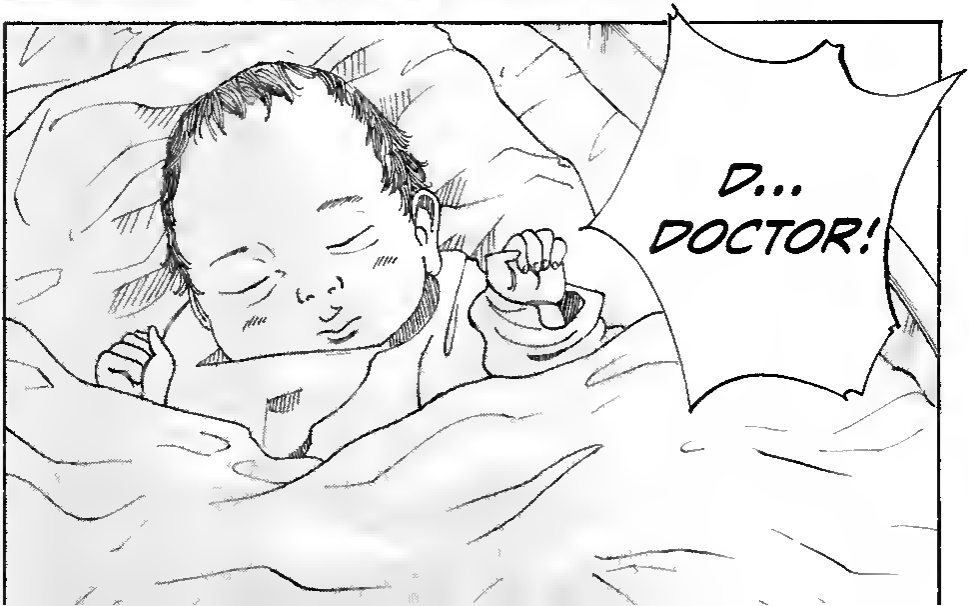

WHAT IS SHE GOING TO DO...
...AND SHE COULD NO LONGER GET AN ABORTION.
I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE WOULDN'T GO SEE A DOCTOR.
...ABOUT THE BABY?
YANO-SAN, JUST CHECKING IN ON YOU.

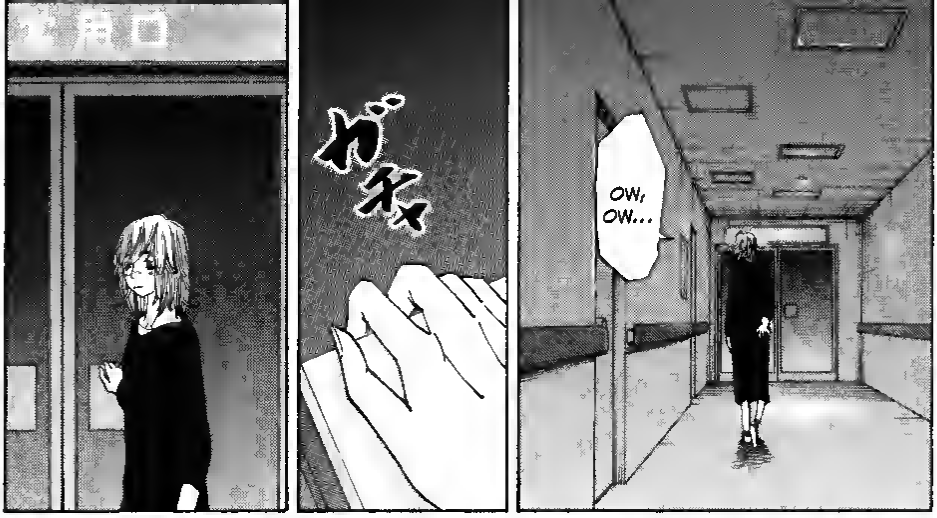

HUH? YANO-SAN?

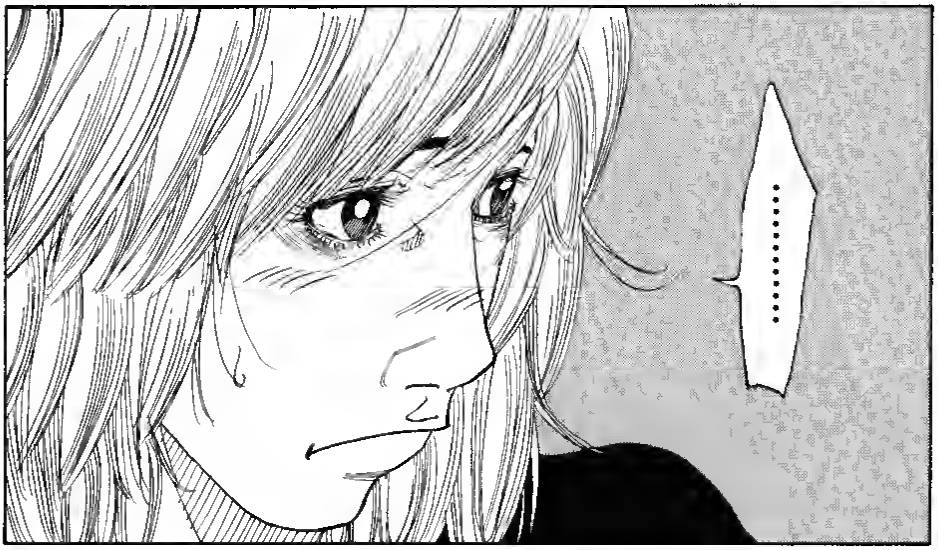
YANO-SAN!


AH...


.....

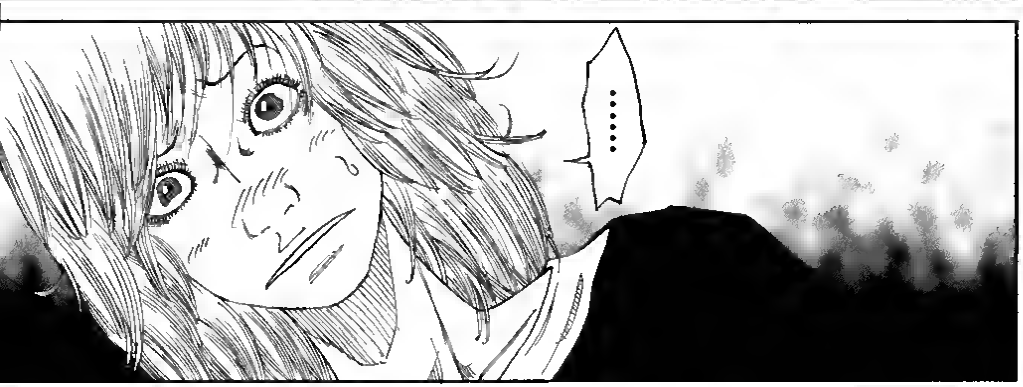

D... DOCTOR!


ガチャ
OW, OW...

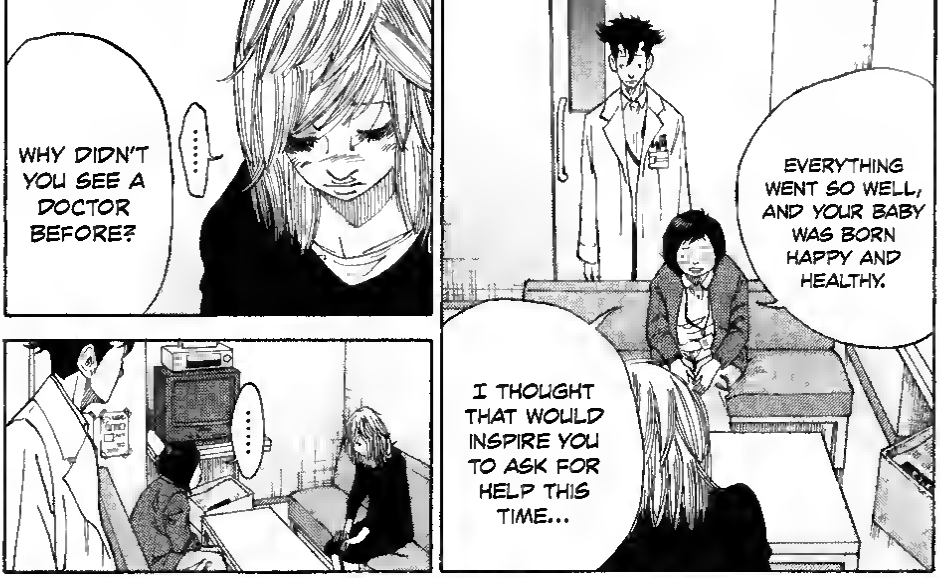

.....

HUH? YANO-SAN?
ガー

WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS LATE AT NIGHT?

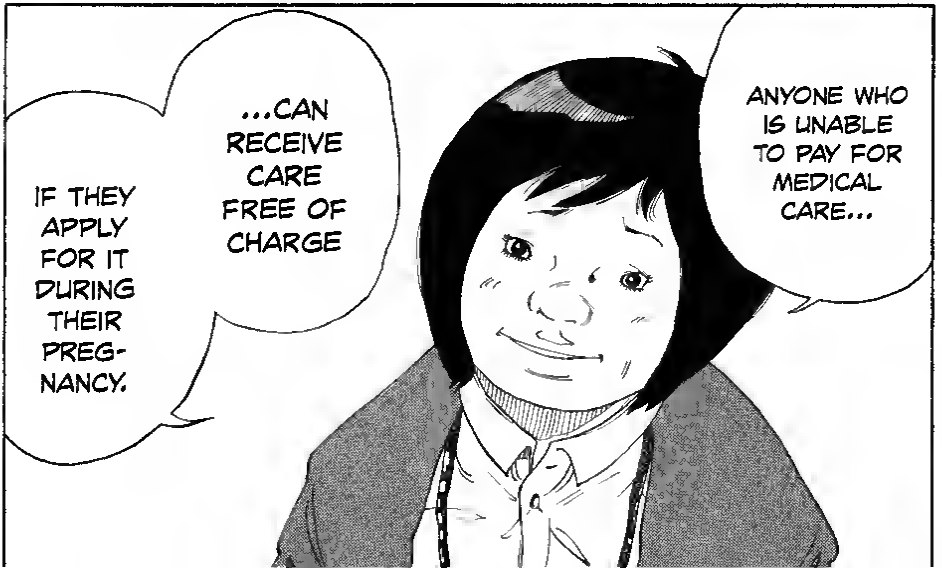

.....

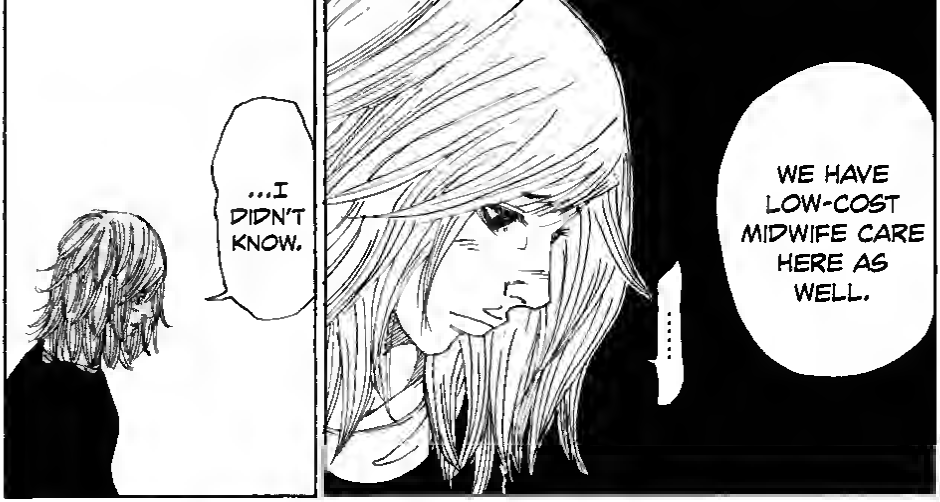
...I'M SORRY!
I DIDN'T... HAVE ANY MONEY...
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK FOR HELP?

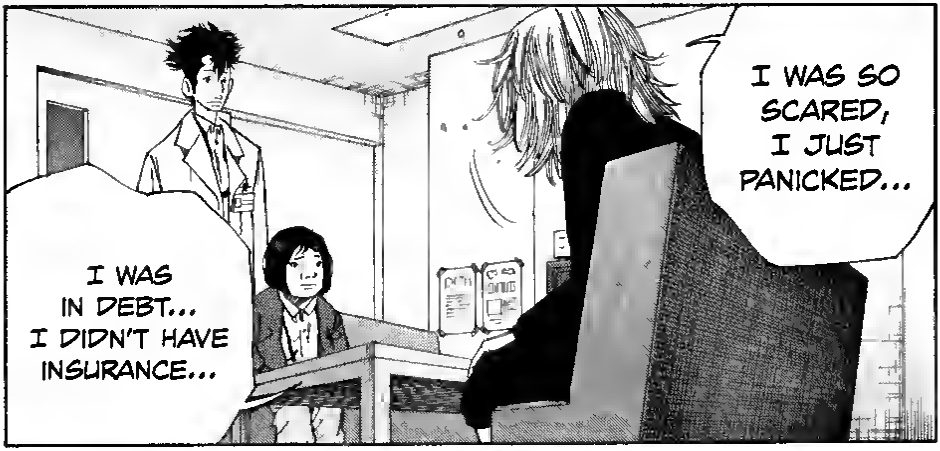

WHY DIDN'T YOU SEE A DOCTOR BEFORE?
.....
I THOUGHT THAT WOULD INSPIRE YOU TO ASK FOR HELP THIS TIME...
EVERYTHING WENT SO WELL, AND YOUR BABY WAS BORN HAPPY AND HEALTHY.

T/N: ALL INFORMATION IS FOR JAPAN ONLY. PLEASE DON'T USE THIS MANGA FOR MEDICAL ADVICE. CONSULT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY.

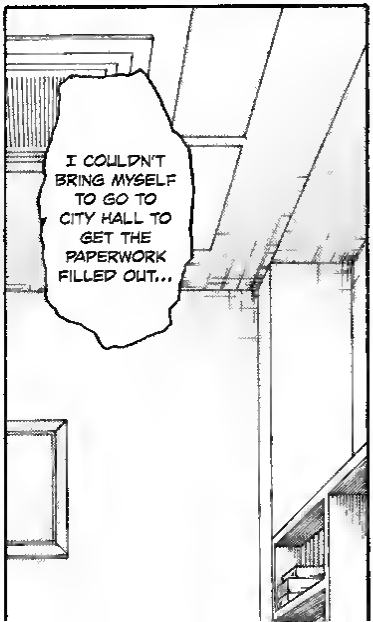
AS LONG AS YOU WENT AND GOT A MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH HANDBOOK FROM YOUR CITY HALL, YOU COULD HAVE RECEIVED FREE MEDICAL CARE.
.....
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY.

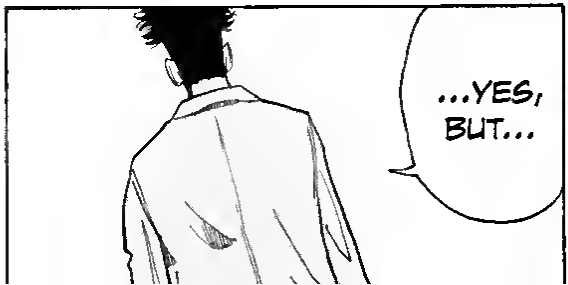


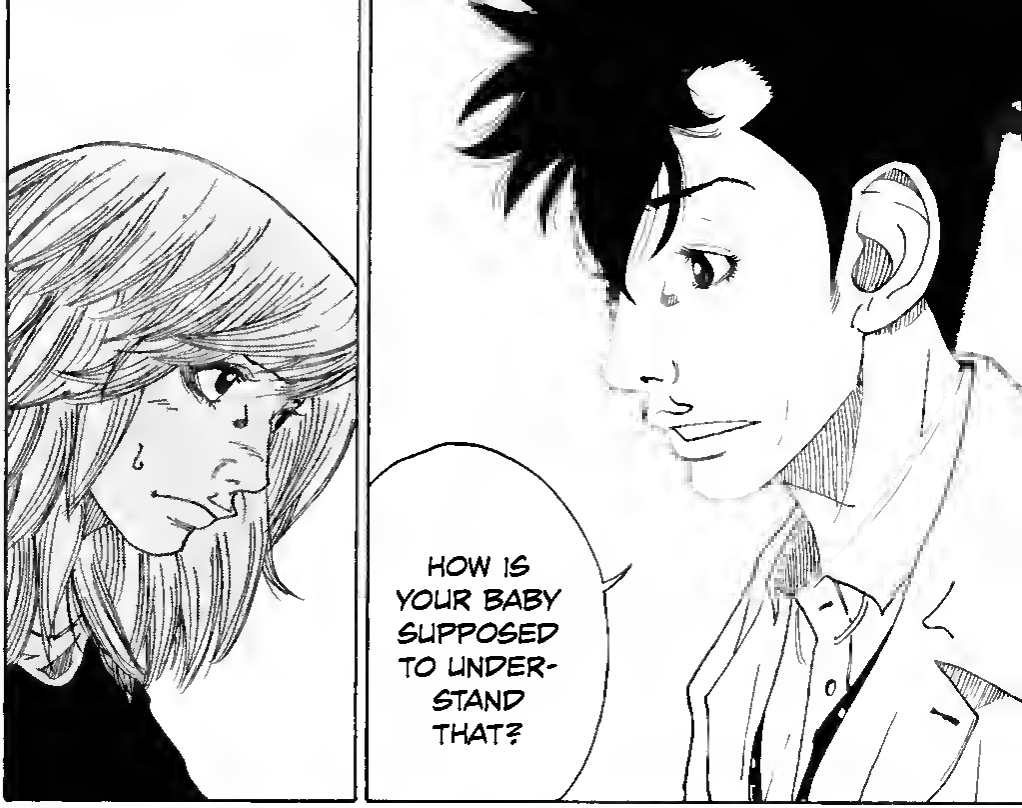

...I DIDN'T KNOW.
.....
WE HAVE LOW-COST MIDWIFE CARE HERE AS WELL.

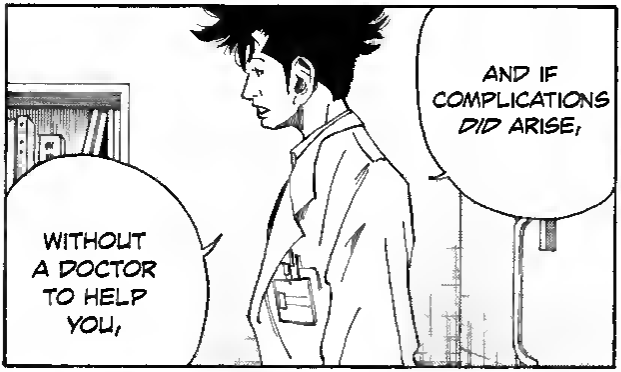

I WAS IN DEBT... I DIDN'T HAVE INSURANCE...
I WAS SO SCARED, I JUST PANICKED...

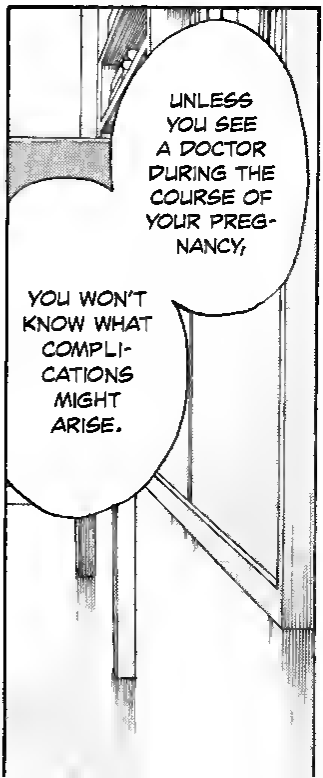
I COULDN'T ASK ANYONE TO HELP.

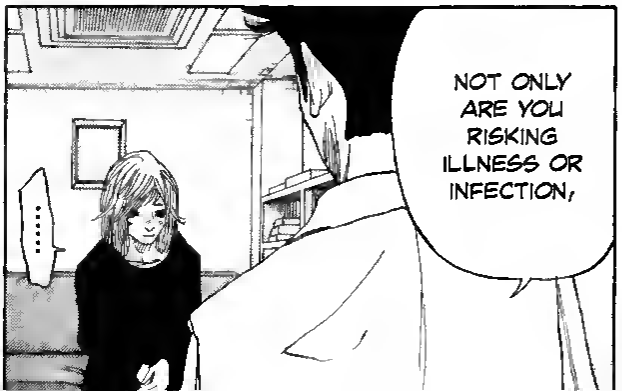

I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO TO CITY HALL TO GET THE PAPERWORK FILLED OUT...

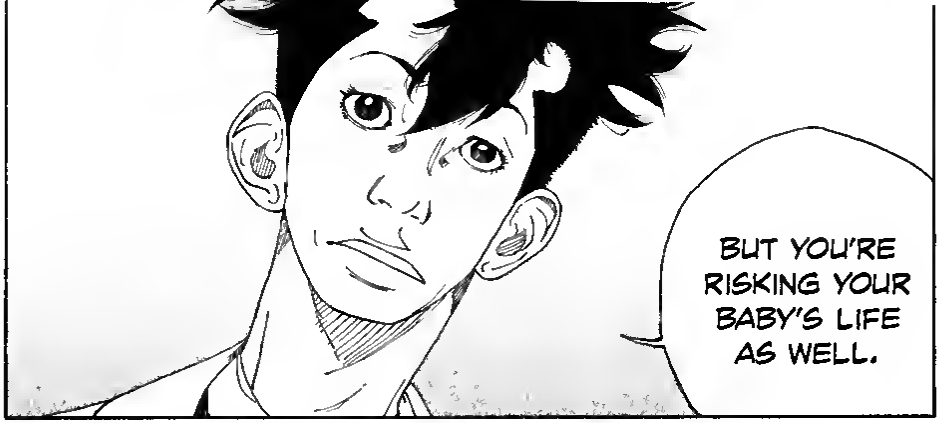

...YES, BUT...

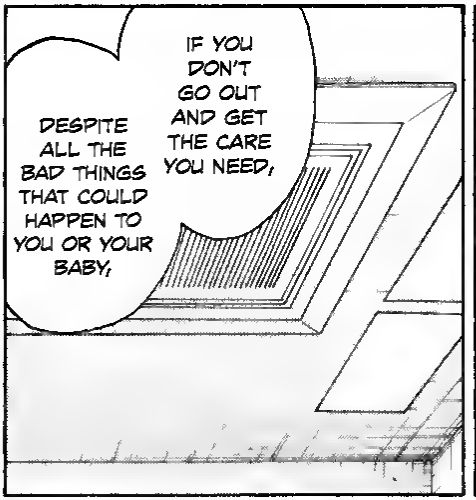

HOW IS YOUR BABY SUPPOSED TO UNDERSTAND THAT?

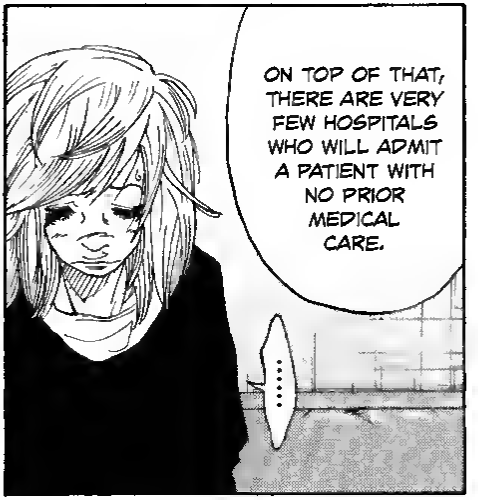

AND IF COMPLICATIONS *DID* ARISE,
WITHOUT A DOCTOR TO HELP YOU,


UNLESS YOU SEE A DOCTOR DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR PREGNANCY,
YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT COMPLICATIONS MIGHT ARISE.

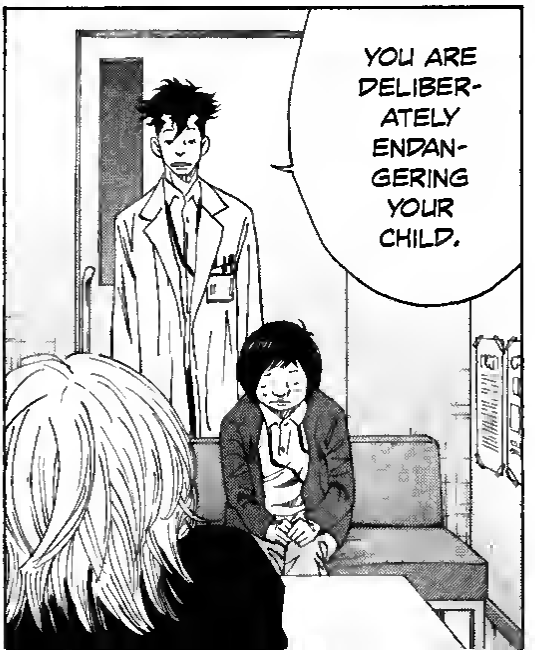

NOT ONLY ARE YOU RISKING ILLNESS OR INFECTION,
.....


BUT YOU'RE RISKING YOUR BABY'S LIFE AS WELL.


DESPITE ALL THE BAD THINGS THAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU OR YOUR BABY,
IF YOU DON'T GO OUT AND GET THE CARE YOU NEED,


ON TOP OF THAT, THERE ARE VERY FEW HOSPITALS WHO WILL ADMIT A PATIENT WITH NO PRIOR MEDICAL CARE.
.....

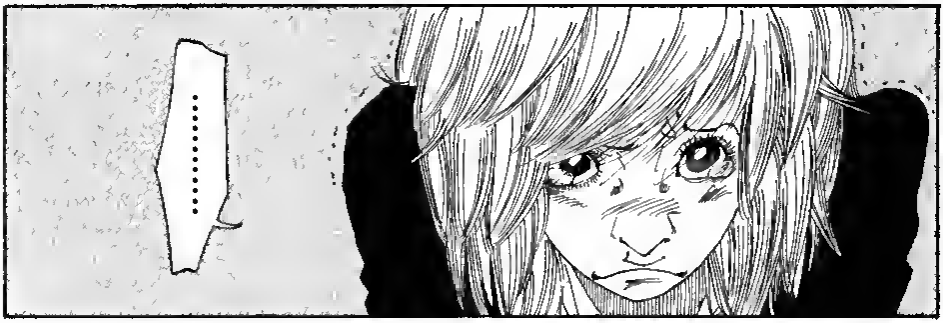
WHAT YOU HAVE DONE...

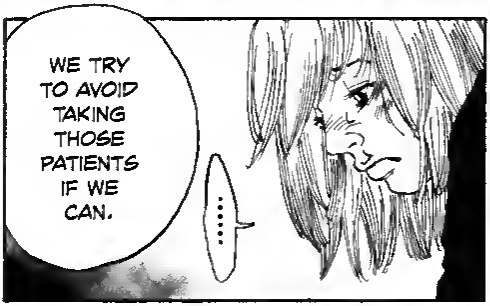

YOU ARE DELIBER-ATELY ENDAN-GERING YOUR CHILD.

...WHY?
...AMOUNTS TO CHILD ABUSE.
.....
.....
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO PUT IT LIKE THAT?!
I WAS ALREADY HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME ON MY OWN...

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY FOR AN ABORTION...
I DIDN'T THINK I COULD BE A MOM...
THE GUY SUPPORTING ME JUST UP AND LEFT...
.....
I'D HOLD MY BELLY IN MY HANDS AND TELL IT...
IF I HAD THE MONEY TO RAISE YOU, I PROMISE I WOULD...
I FELT SO SCARED... I FELT LIKE THROWING UP...
BUT MY BELLY KEPT GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER, AND EVERY TIME I FELT IT MOVE INSIDE ME,
YOU'RE A DOCTOR!
HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?!

I DON'T.


.....


WE TRY TO AVOID TAKING THOSE PATIENTS IF WE CAN.
....

WHEN WE AGREE TO TAKE CARE OF A WOMAN WHO'S HAD NO MEDICAL CARE WHATSOEVER,
WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT PATIENT CAUSES FOR US.

WANTS TO BE BORN,
BUT IF A BABY...

WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP.
YANO-SAN, YOU CALLED AN AMBU-LANCE...
...BECAUSE YOU WANTED US TO SAVE YOUR BABY, RIGHT?
.....

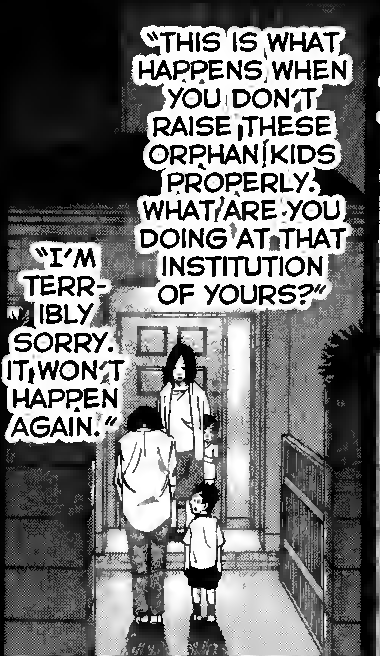
BUT... I CAN'T KEEP HER...
I JUST CAN'T...

PRETTY COOL SONG, RIGHT?
BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE! IT'S A SECRET.
Shh!
THAT'S ME PLAYING THE PIANO THERE.
...IS GOING TO BE SO MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.
...YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO AN ORPHANAGE SOON.
FROM NOW ON,
YOUR LIFE...

.....

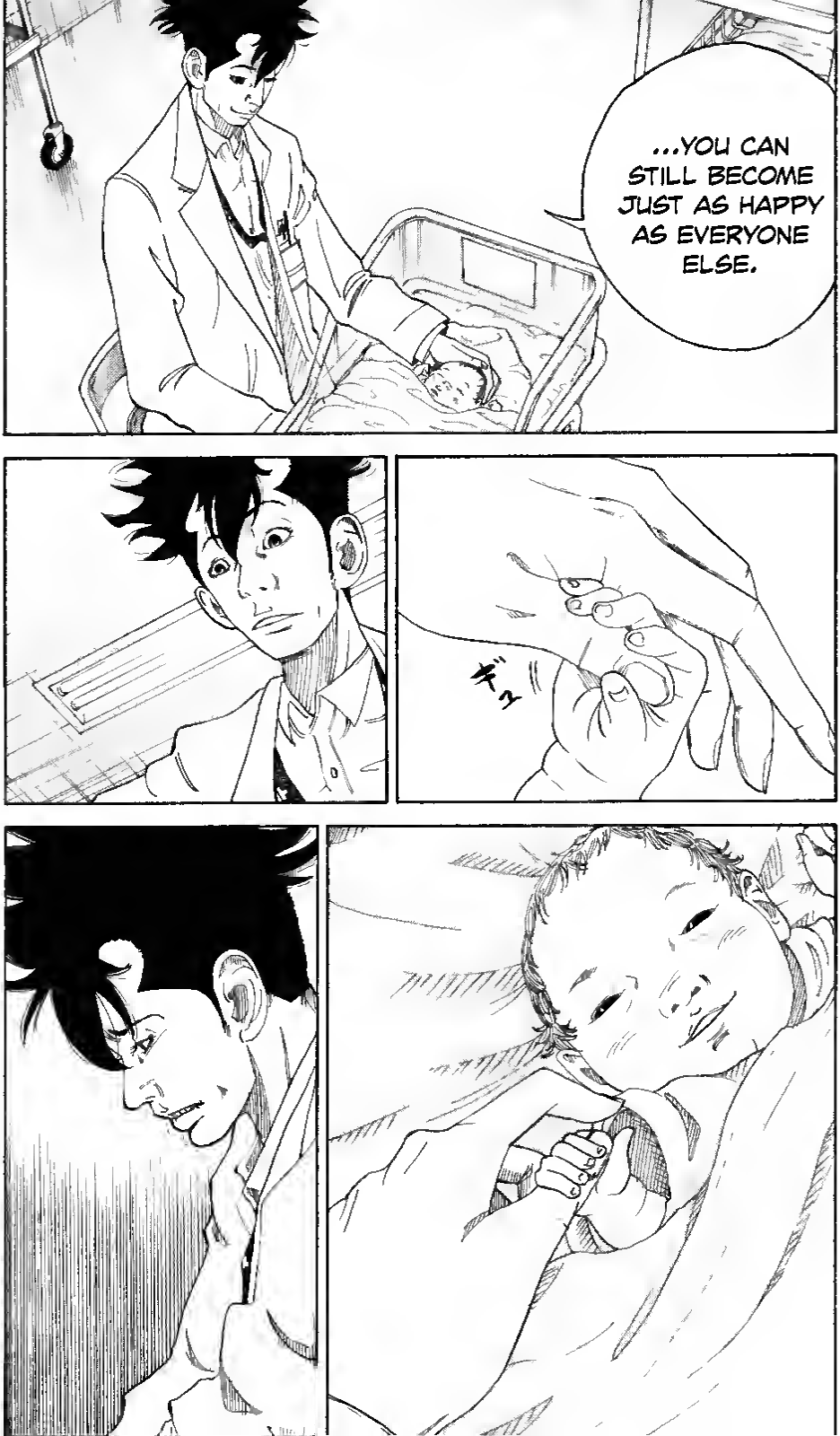
"AHAHA, WELL, YOU'VE GOT THE TALENT FOR IT."

"'CAUSE I WANT TO BE A PIANIST!"
"SAKURA, WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY SOCCER WITH THE OTHER BOYS?"
ママの家

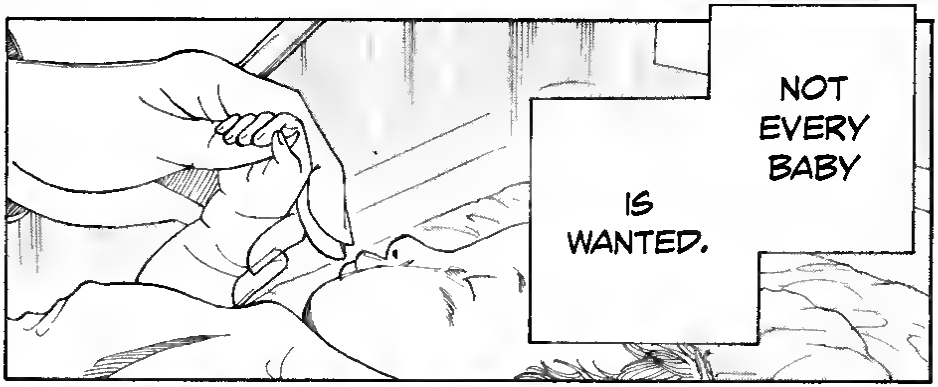

"THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T RAISE THESE ORPHAN KIDS PROPERLY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THAT INSTITUTION OF YOURS?"
"I'M TERRIBLY SORRY. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN."

"IF YOUR MOM DIDN'T LOVE YOU, THEN THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU! DO THE WORLD A FAVOR AND JUST DIE ALREADY!"
"WE DON'T WANT ORPHANS DIRTYING UP OUR SCHOOL!"
"YOU LIVE WITH ALL THE KIDS WHOSE PARENTS DIDN'T LOVE THEM, RIGHT?"

"...NO, YOUR MOTHER DIED."
"HEY, MAMA KEI, DID MY MOM HATE ME?"
"WHY ARE YOU SAYING SORRY? IT WAS THEIR FAULT!"
"SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BE THE BETTER PERSON."
"AHAHA, THAT'LL BE HARD."
"...I'M GONNA BE A DOCTOR AND A PIANIST!"
FROM NOW ON,
HEY, SAKURA.
BUT...
YOUR LIFE MIGHT BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVERYONE ELSE'S.

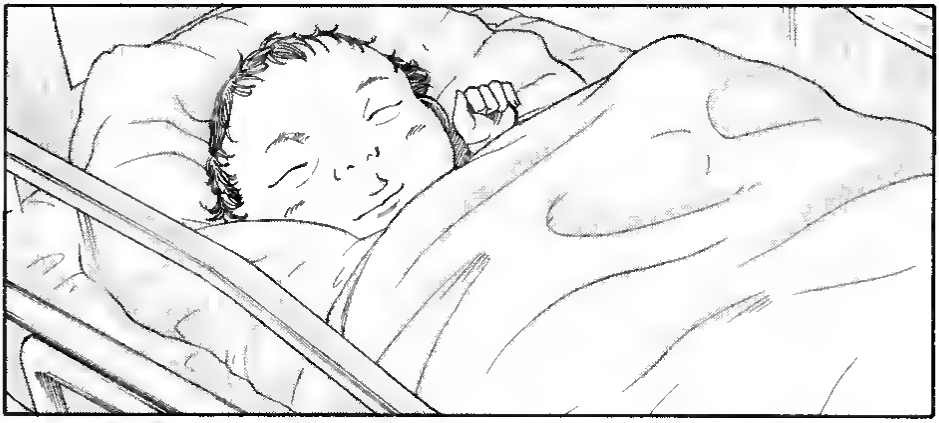

...YOU CAN STILL BECOME JUST AS HAPPY AS EVERYONE ELSE.
ギュ

DON'T GIVE UP.


NOT EVERY BABY IS WANTED.

BUT ALL THE PEOPLE WORKING HERE
WILL WORK THEIR HARDEST

SO THEY CAN CON-GRATULATE



EVERY BABY THAT IS BORN.

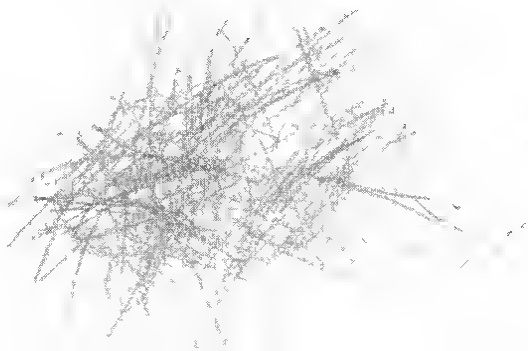
Kounotori: The Stork

presented in English by Futari wa Pretty Anon

Translation & Scanlation by AnonBlack
with thanks to the proofreading team

HQ direct download available on our website
prettyanonymo.us #prettyanon@irc.rizon.net

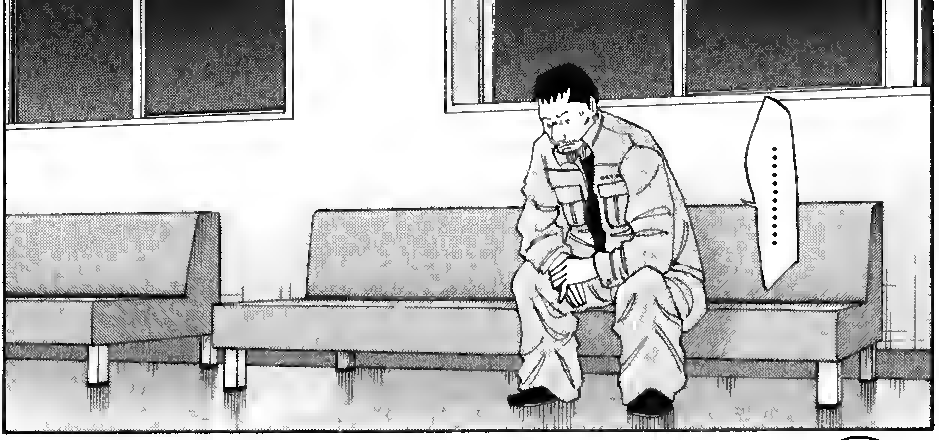
What is this?



2010 3.2 Tenta
てんた 21 months

IT...

IT'S SO SMALL...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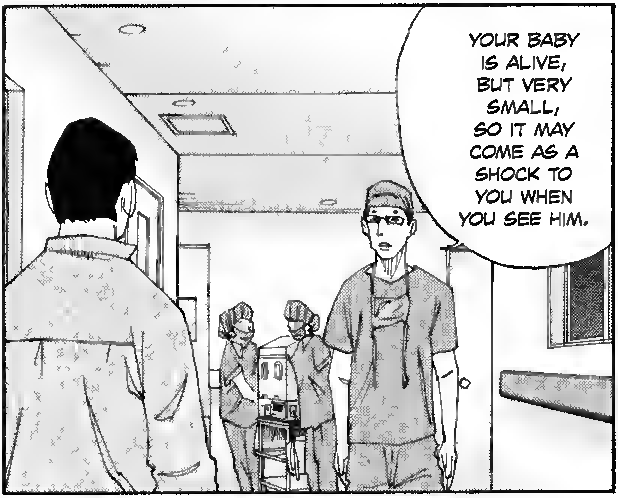
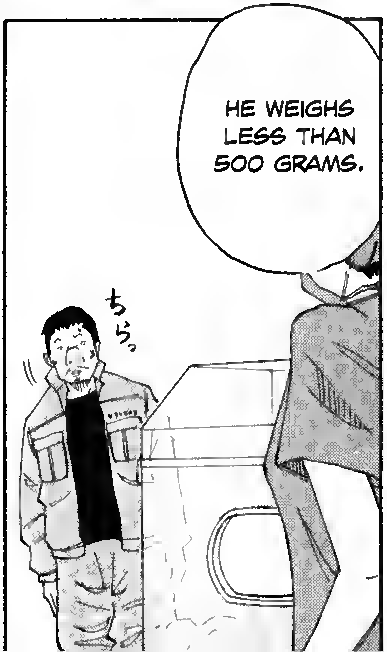
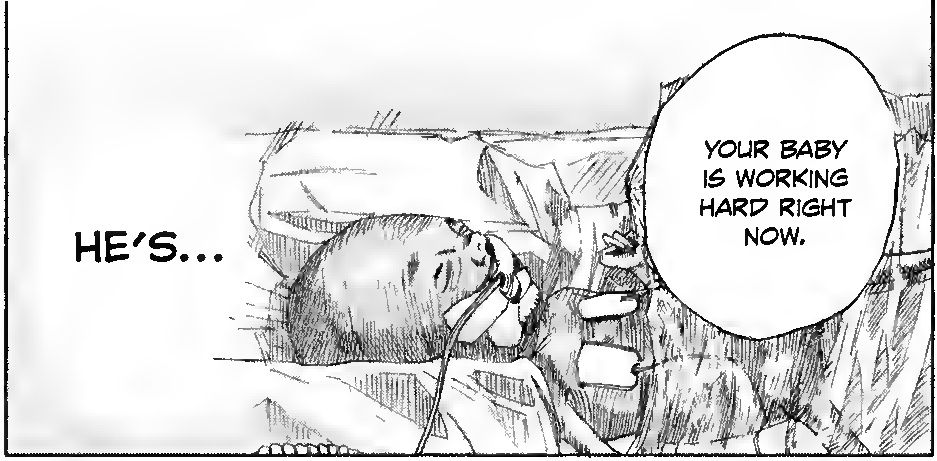
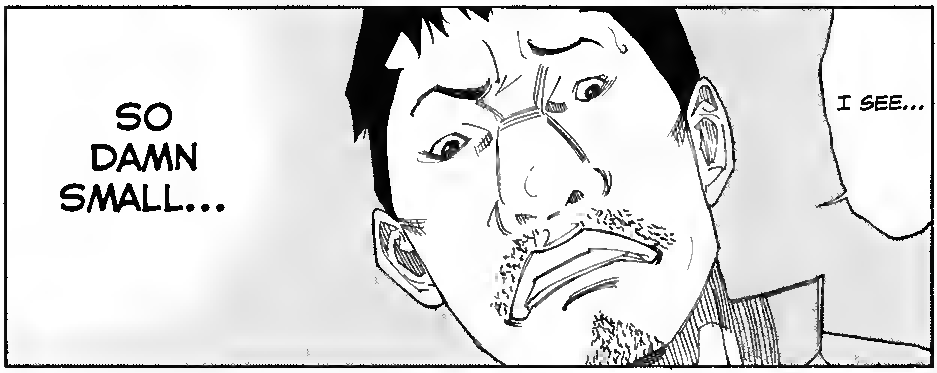

YOUR BABY IS ALIVE, BUT VERY SMALL, SO IT MAY COME AS A SHOCK TO YOU WHEN YOU SEE HIM.

MR. TANAKA?


HE WEIGHS LESS THAN 500 GRAMS.
ちら。

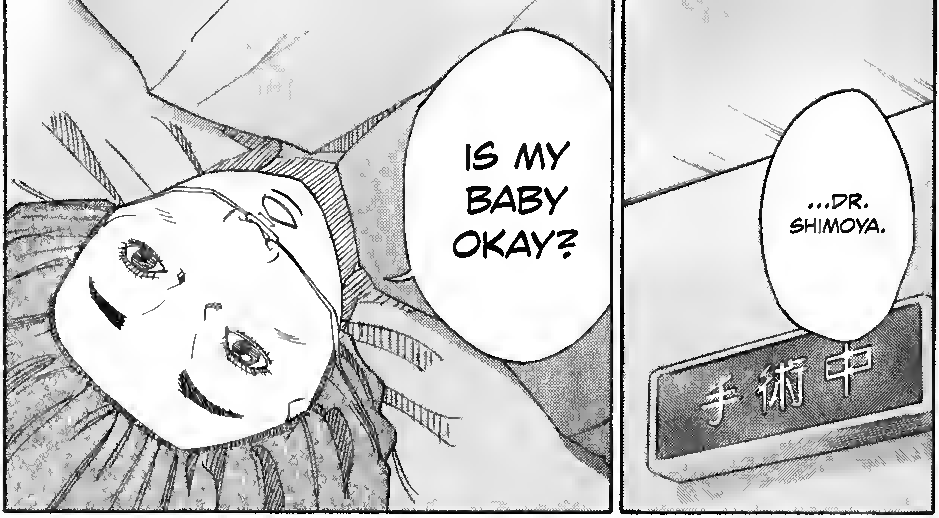

HE'S...
YOUR BABY IS WORKING HARD RIGHT NOW.


SO DAMN SMALL...
I SEE...

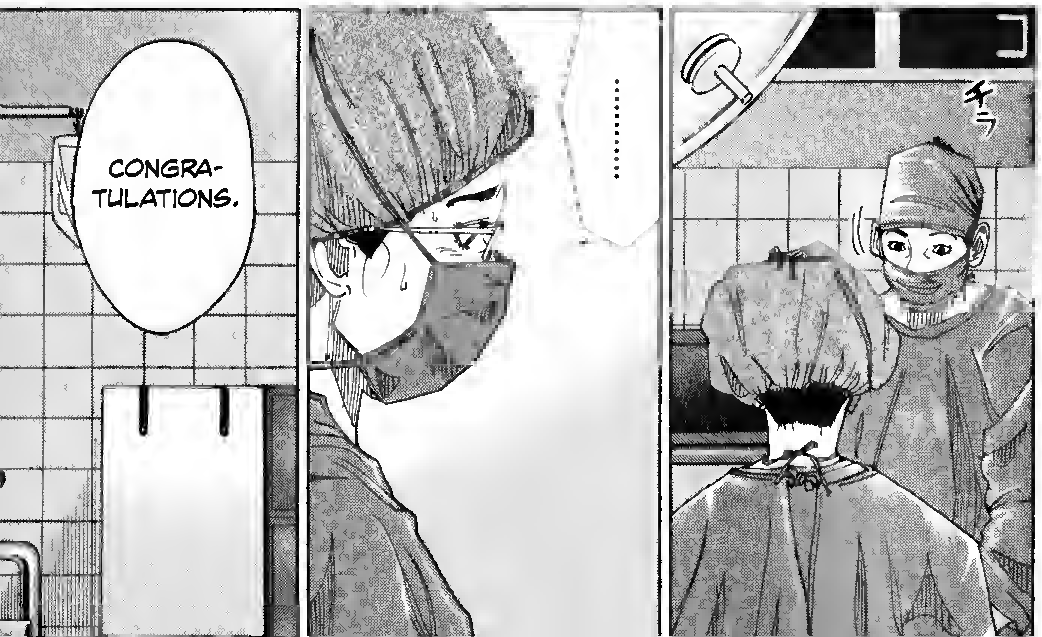
AH... TH-
THANK...

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING TO YOU THEN.
WE'LL TALK MORE ONCE WE'VE FINISHED TAKING CARE OF HIM.
.....

THANK YOU!


IS MY BABY OKAY?
...DR. SHIMOYA.
手術中

THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE STANDING AROUND...
I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SEE HIM.


CONGRA-TULATIONS.
.....
チラ

YOU GAVE BIRTH TO A BEAUTIFUL BABY BOY.
HE'S A LITTLE ON THE SMALL SIDE, BUT HE'S ALIVE.

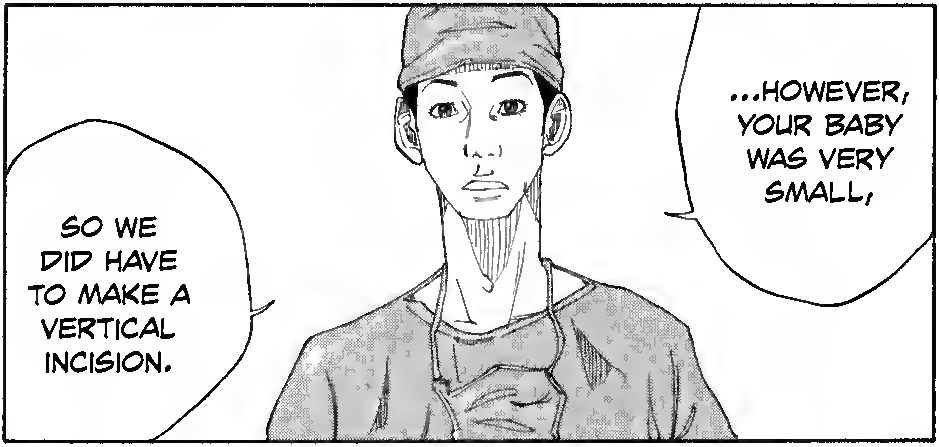
RIGHT NOW WE'RE MOVING HIM TO THE NICU. HE'S DOING WELL AND WORKING HARD.
.....

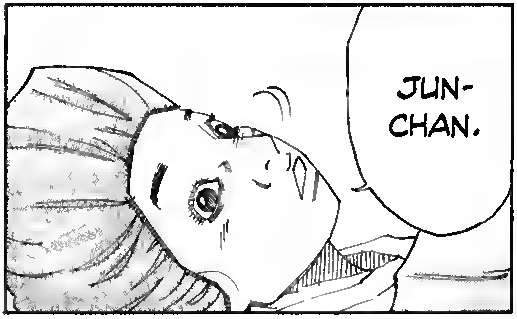
.....

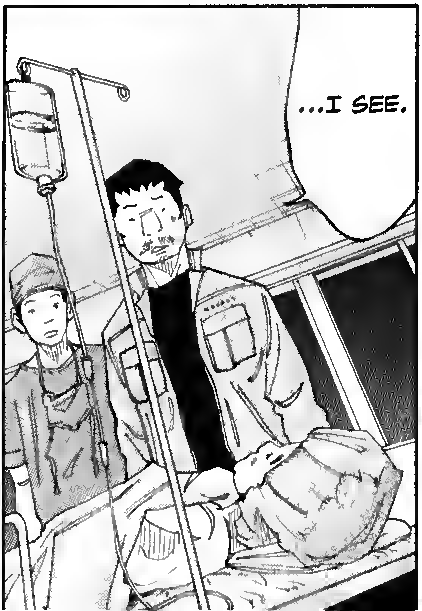
...THANK GOOD-NESS.
手術中

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM TOMORROW.

YOUR WIFE MADE IT THROUGH THE SURGERY ALRIGHT.
YOUKO!

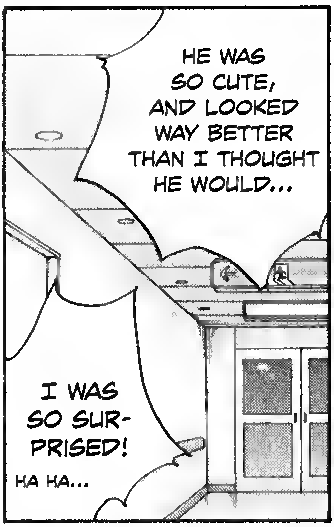

...HOWEVER, YOUR BABY WAS VERY SMALL,
SO WE DID HAVE TO MAKE A VERTICAL INCISION.


JUN-CHAN.

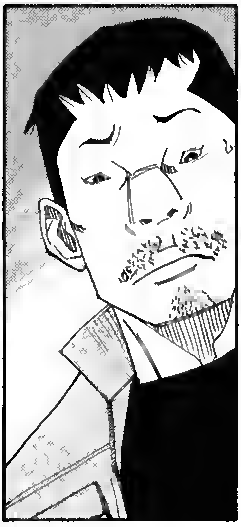

...I SEE.

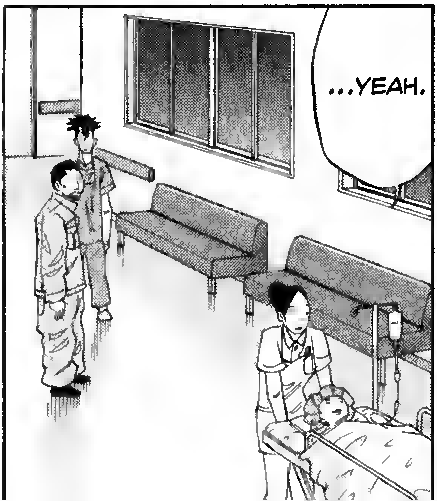
HUH...
DID YOU SEE HIM?

DID YOU SEE OUR BABY?


HE WAS SO CUTE, AND LOOKED WAY BETTER THAN I THOUGHT HE WOULD...
I WAS SO SURPRISED!
HA HA...

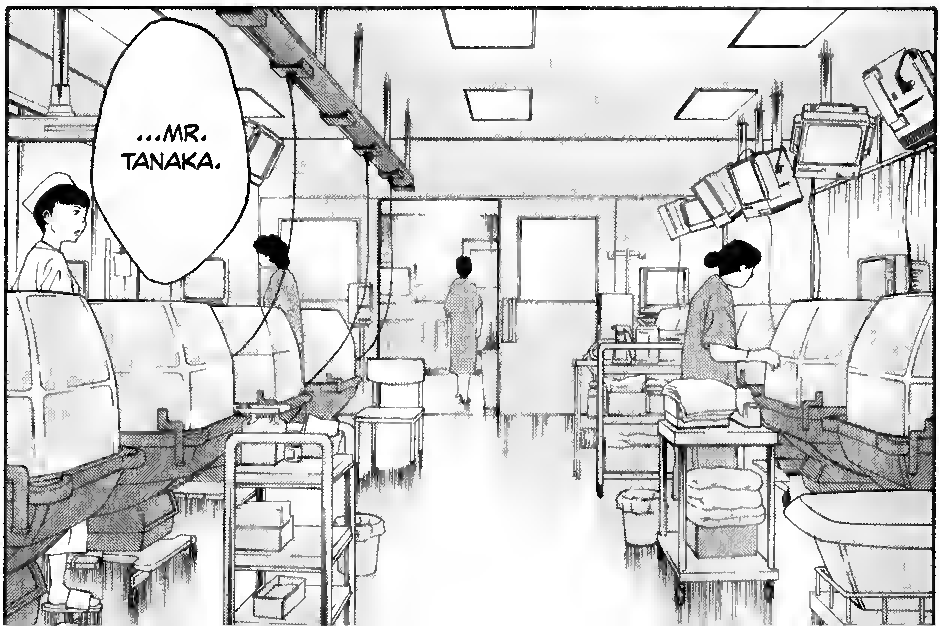
Y... YEAH.
I DID, I DID!

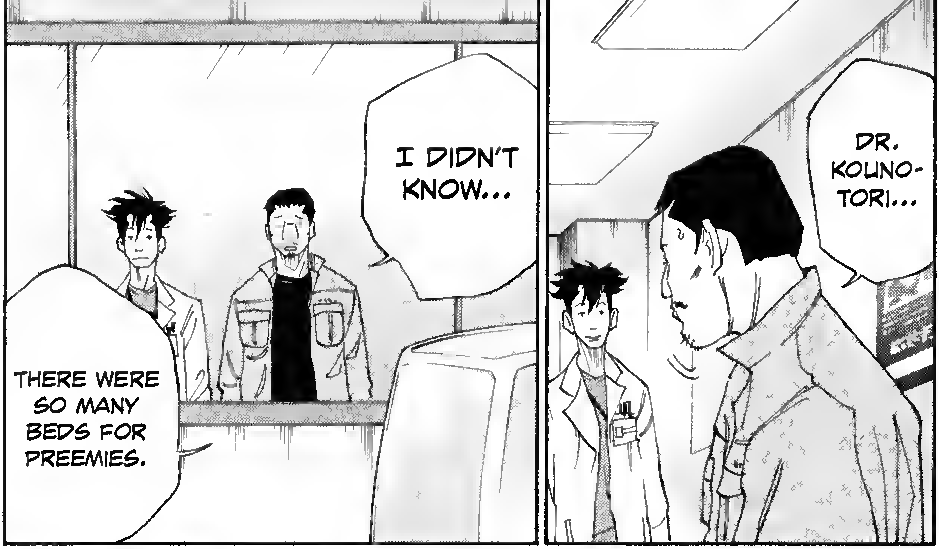


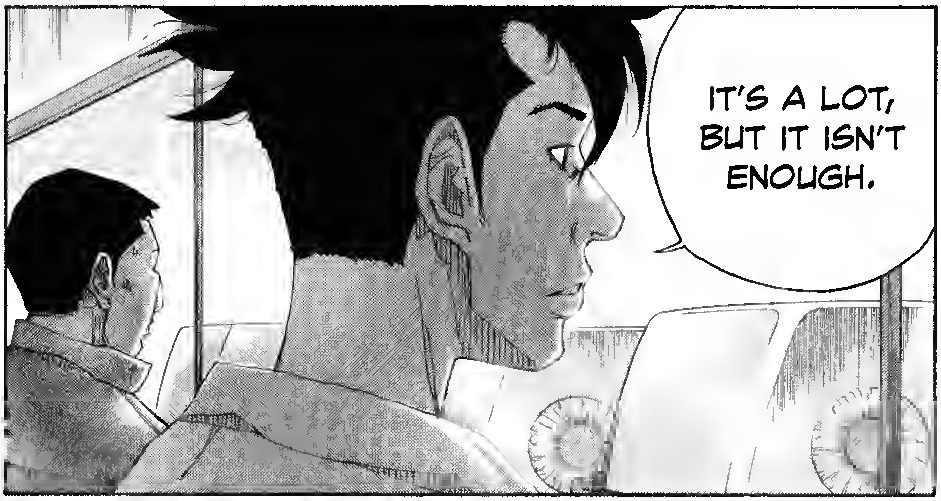

...YEAH.

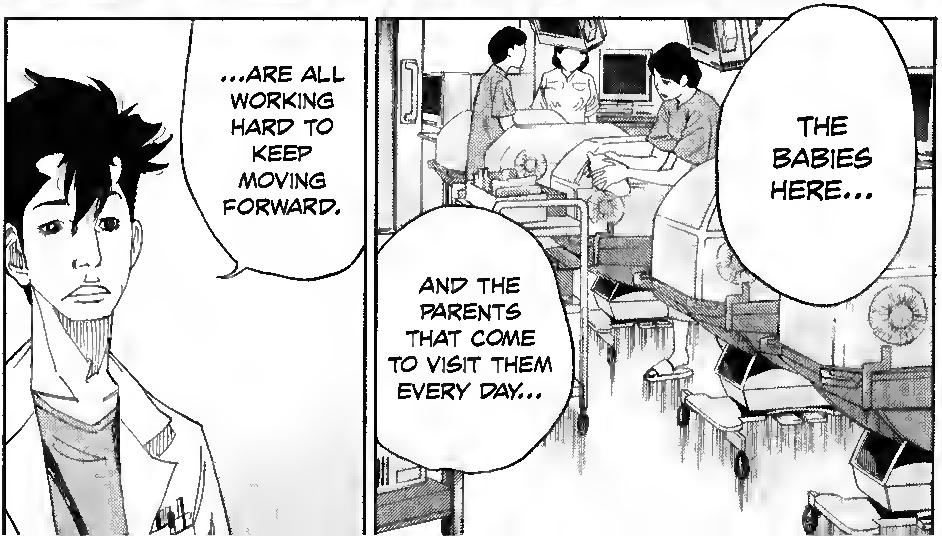
I CAN'T WAIT TO GO SEE HIM WITH YOU.

Neonata
Care Uni
(NICU)

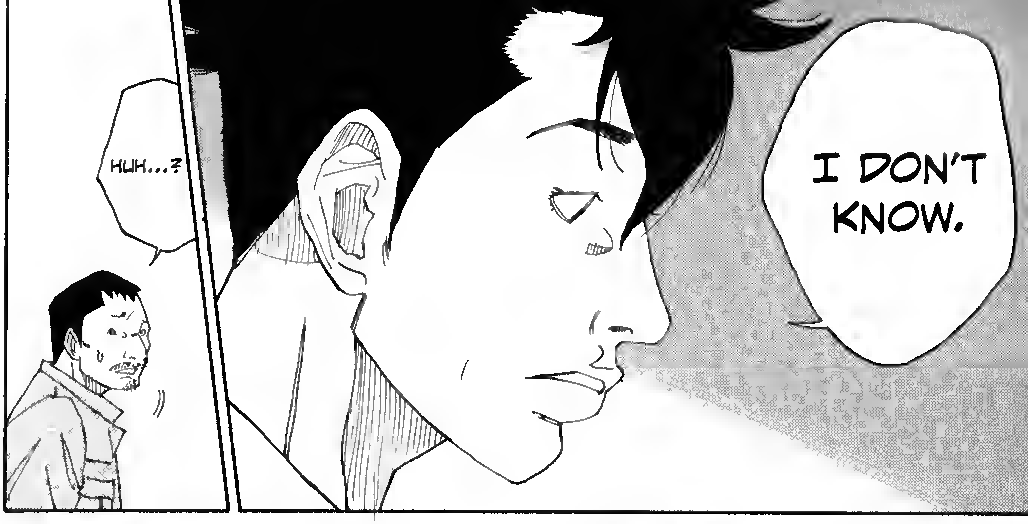

...MR. TANAKA.

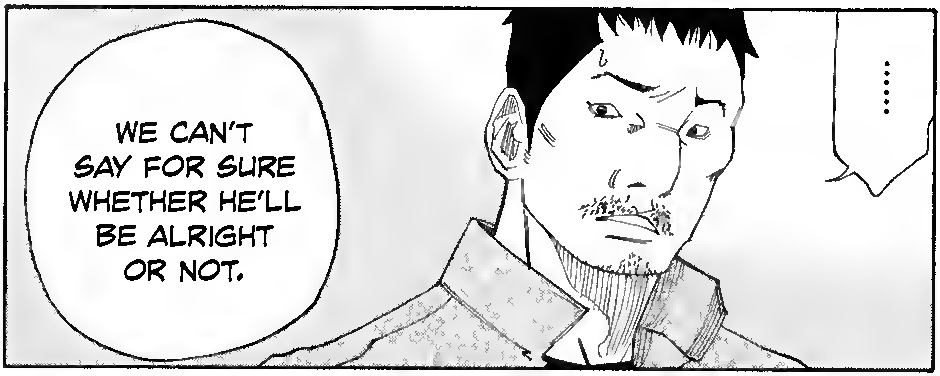

I DIDN'T KNOW...
THERE WERE SO MANY BEDS FOR PREEMIES.
DR. KOUNO-TORI...


IT'S A LOT, BUT IT ISN'T ENOUGH.


...ARE ALL WORKING HARD TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD.
THE BABIES HERE...
AND THE PARENTS THAT COME TO VISIT THEM EVERY DAY...

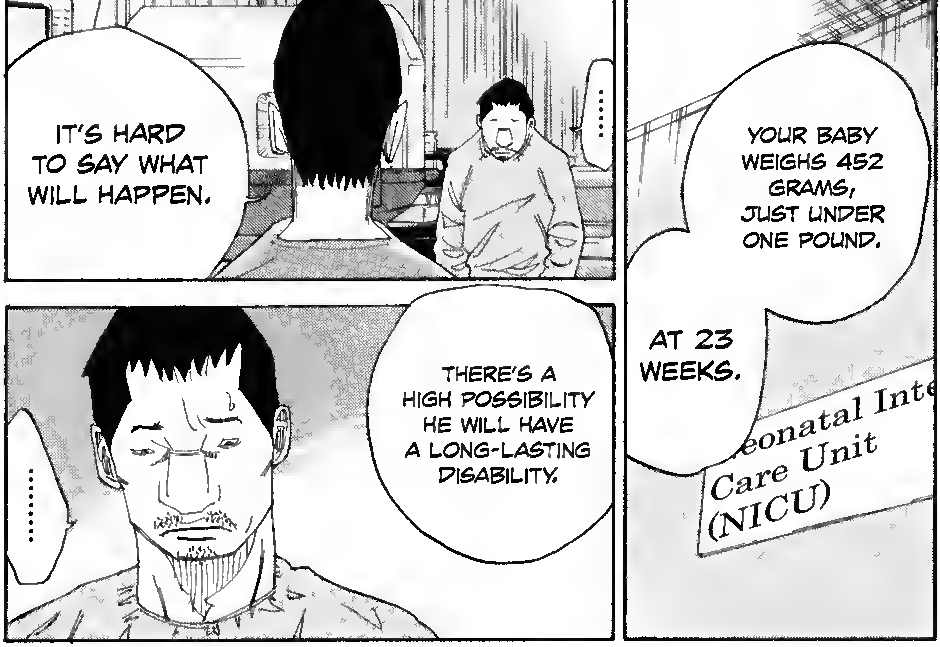
THERE ARE BABIES HERE THAT ARE IN A VEGETATIVE STATE, AND SOME WITH SERIOUS DISABILITIES...
.....
THERE ARE SOME BABIES WHOSE PARENTS HAVE STOPPED COMING TO VISIT THEM.
OUR BABY...
HE'S SO SMALL...
CAN YOU STILL SAVE HIM?


HUH...?
I DON'T KNOW.

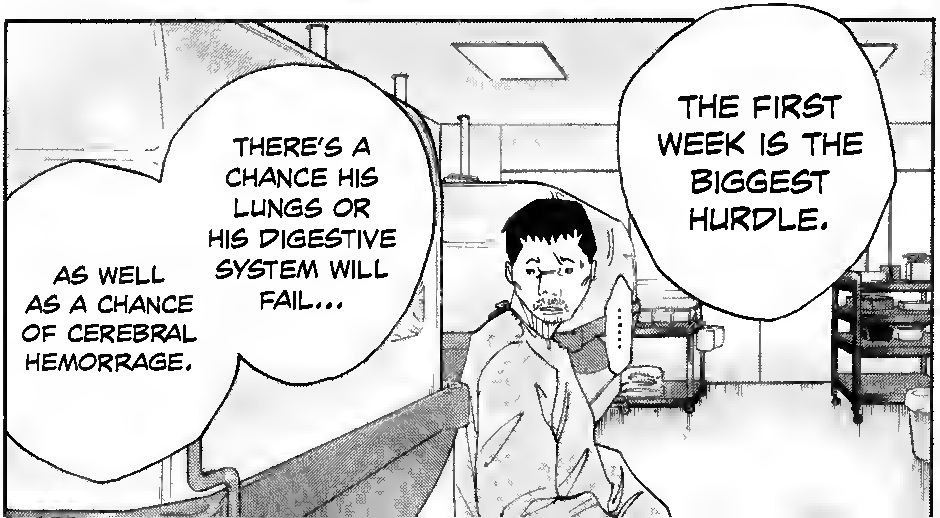

WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE WHETHER HE'LL BE ALRIGHT OR NOT.
.....

THAT SUDDENLY TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE.
THEN THERE ARE BABIES WE'RE SURE WILL BE ALRIGHT...
THAT GO HOME WITH THEIR PARENTS SIX MONTHS LATER.
THERE ARE BABIES WE'VE COMPLETELY GIVEN UP ON...

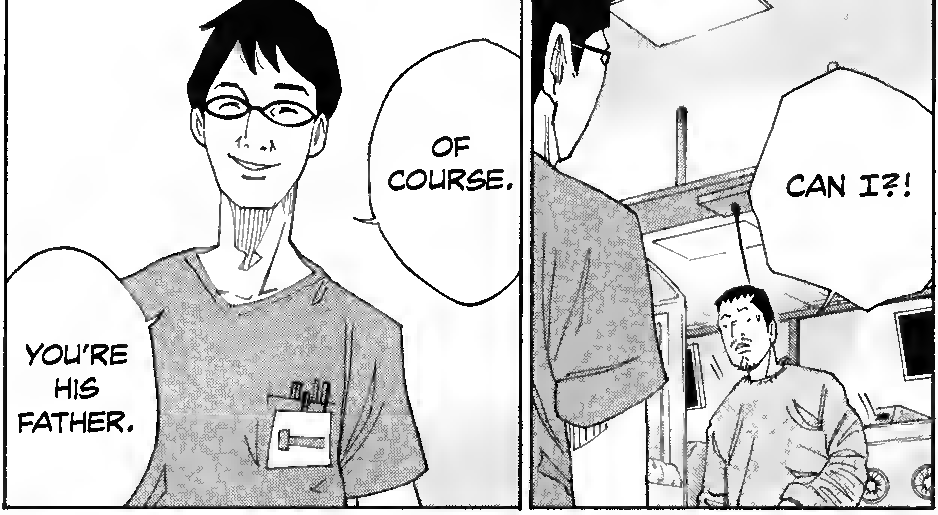
ALL KNOW THAT THESE BABIES ARE TRYING THEIR HARDEST TO LIVE ON...
AND THEY DO EVERY-THING THEY CAN TO HELP THEM.
.....
BUT THE DOCTORS AND NURSES...
WORKING HERE IN THE NICU...
SO PLEASE, PUT YOUR FAITH IN THEM.

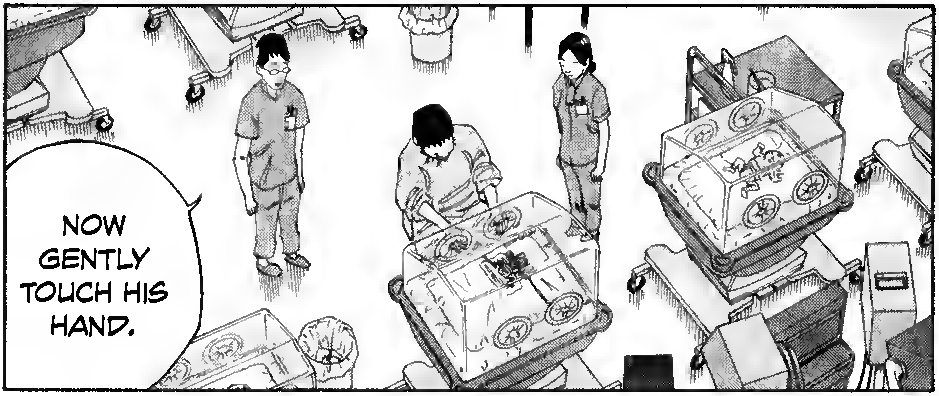

IT'S HARD TO SAY WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
YOUR BABY WEIGHS 452 GRAMS, JUST UNDER ONE POUND.
AT 23 WEEKS.
eonatal Inte
Care Unit (NICU)
THERE'S A HIGH POSSIBILITY HE WILL HAVE A LONG-LASTING DISABILITY.
.....

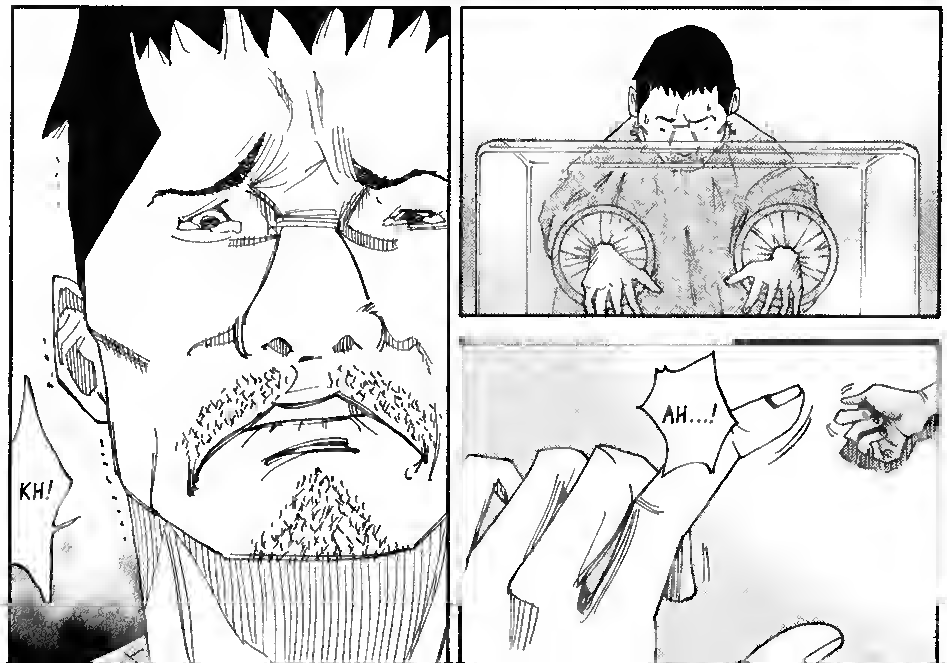
TOMORROW WE'LL INSERT A TUBE INTO HIS STOMACH AND START FEEDING HIM BREASTMILK.
WE'VE INSERTED A CATHETER INTO HIS NAVEL AND STARTED AN IV.


AS WELL AS A CHANCE OF CEREBRAL HEMORRAGE.
THERE'S A CHANCE HIS LUNGS OR HIS DIGESTIVE SYSTEM WILL FAIL...
THE FIRST WEEK IS THE BIGGEST HURDLE.
.....

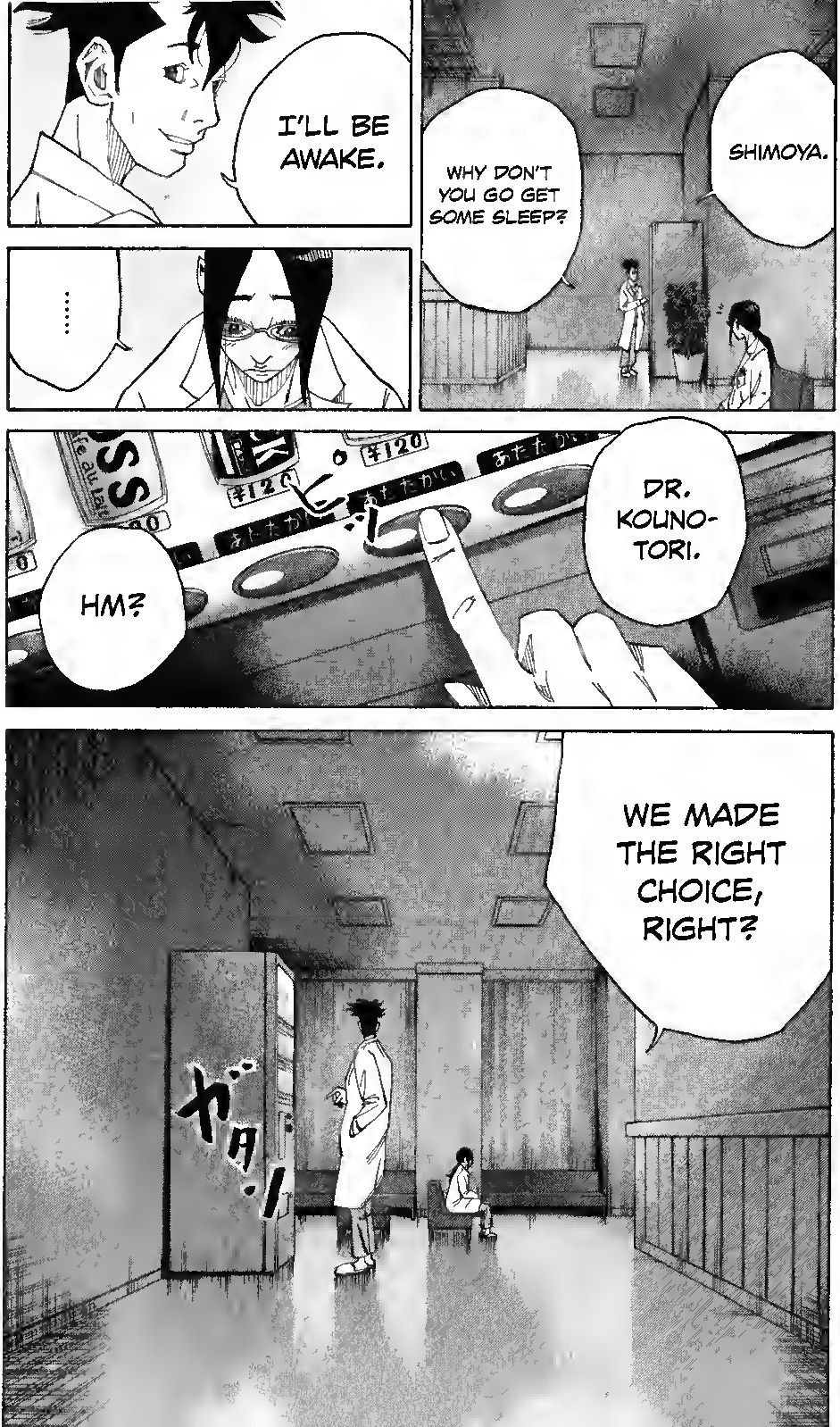
EVEN AFTER THE FIRST WEEK,
YOUR BABY WILL HAVE PERIODS OF DOING WELL AND DOING NOT-SO-WELL.
THERE ARE MANY MORE HURDLES TO CLEAR AFTER THIS ONE AS WELL...
.....
.....
MR. TANAKA.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TOUCH YOUR BABY?
HUH?

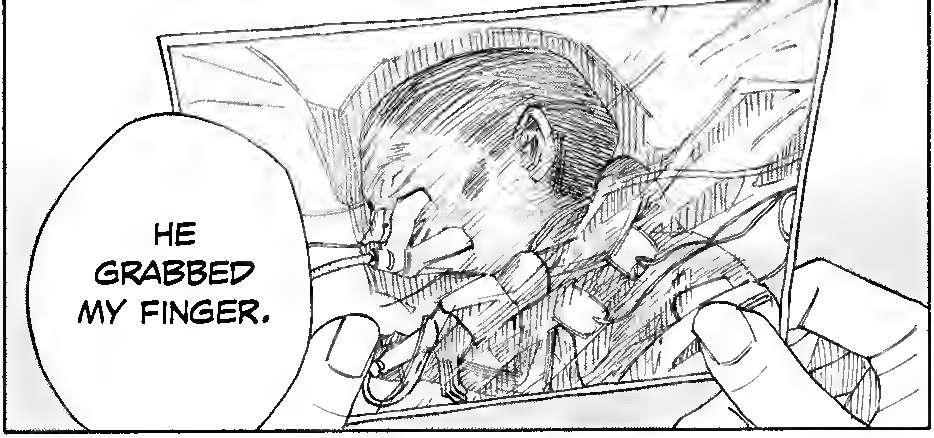

YOU'RE HIS FATHER.
OF COURSE.
CAN I?!

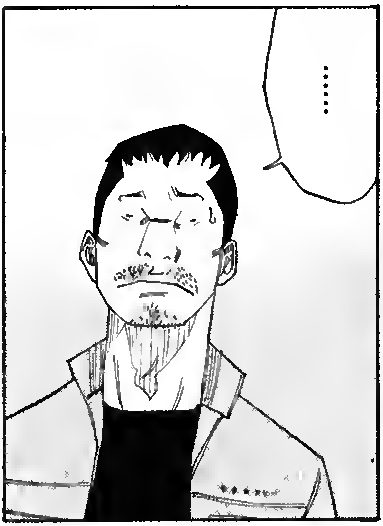

NOW GENTLY TOUCH HIS HAND.

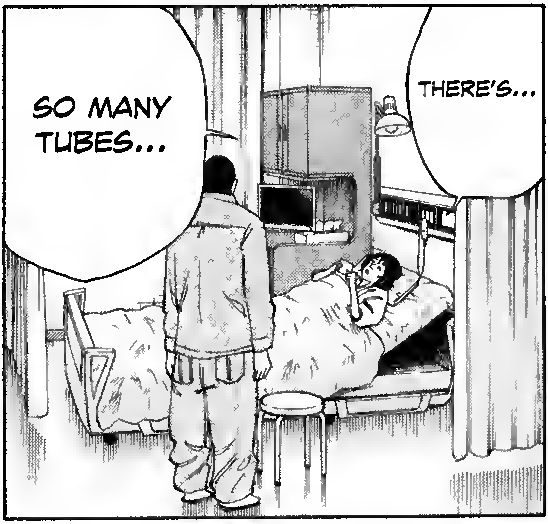

KH!
AH...!

SO PLEASE, PUT YOUR FAITH IN THEM.
AH HA HA!
AND PUT YOUR FAITH IN YOUR BABY.
HE'S HOLDING ON...


I'LL BE AWAKE.
SHIMOYA.
WHY DON'T YOU GO GET SOME SLEEP?
.....
DR. KOUNO-TORI.
HM?
WE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, RIGHT?
ガラ!


HE GRABBED MY FINGER.

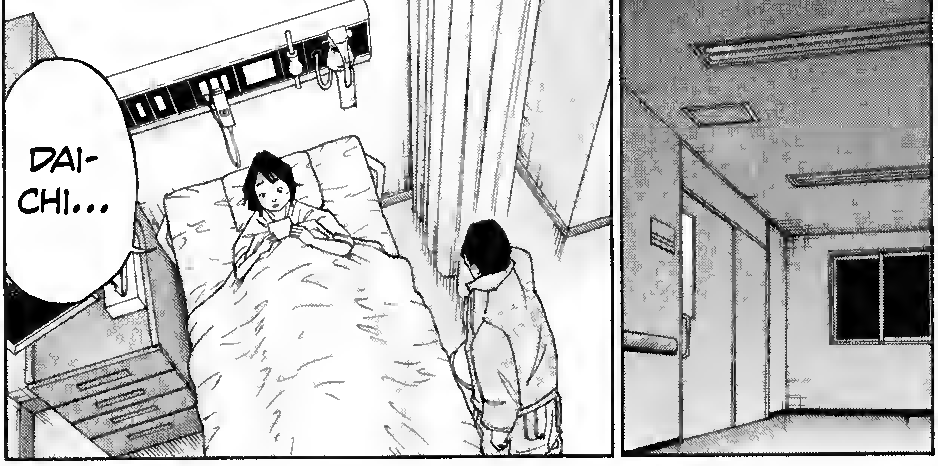

.....

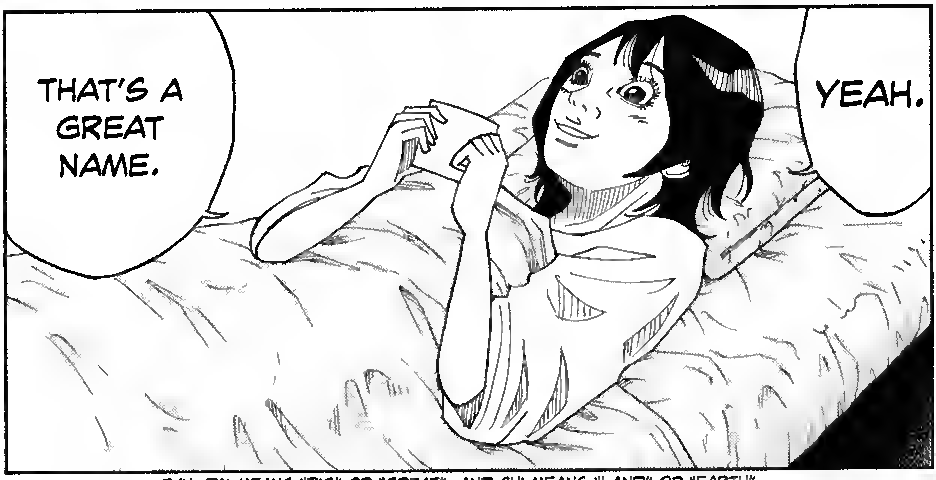

SO MANY TUBES...
THERE'S...

HUH?
I'VE ALREADY GOT ONE.

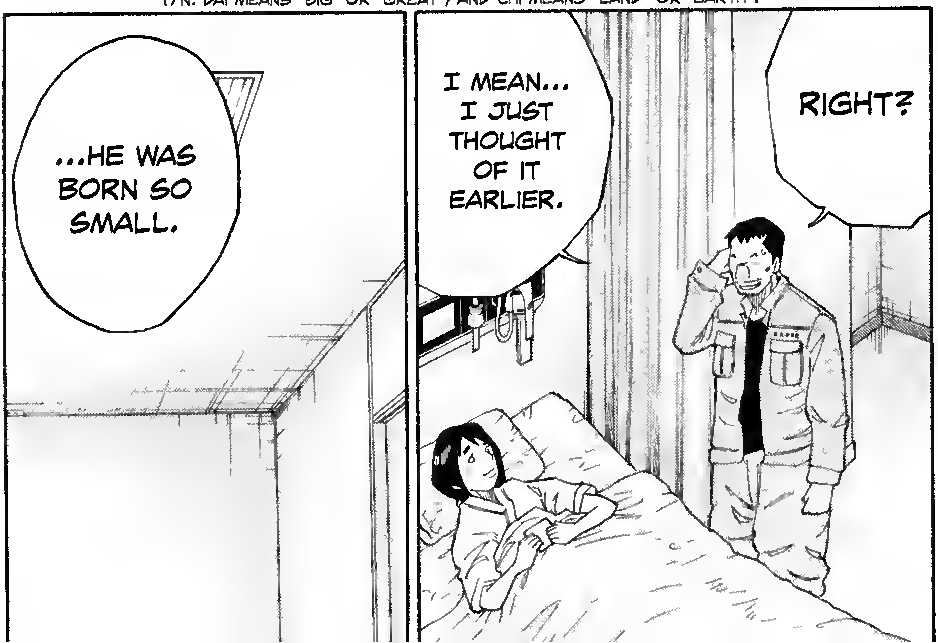
SHOULD THINK OF A NAME.
WE...

DAICHI.





T/N: DAI MEANS "BIG" OR "GREAT", AND CHI MEANS "LAND" OR "EARTH".

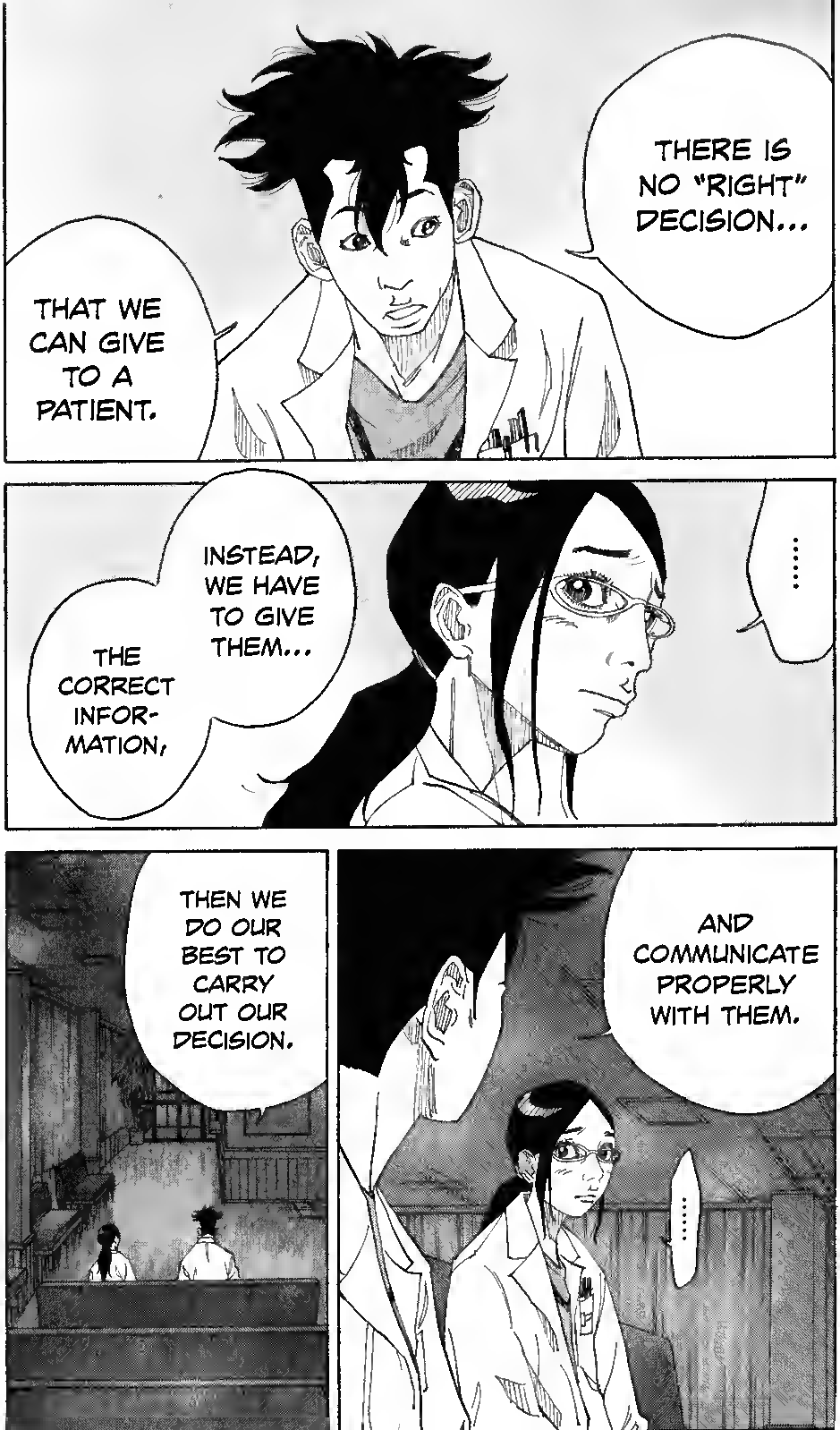


SO LET'S HELP HIM GROW UP BIG AND STRONG.
I WANT TO SEE DAICHI...

THAT I WANTED...
TO SAVE BOTH HER AND THE BABY.
DR. KOUNO-TORI... I... TOLD THE TANAKAS...
BUT WHEN I HELD THAT LITTLE BABY IN MY HAND...
HE WAS SO SMALL, AND LIGHT... I WONDERED IF WE COULD SAVE HIM AT ALL...
AND IF WE COULDN'T SAVE HIM, THEN WAS REALLY WORTH ALL OF THIS?
SO YOU THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF WE HADN'T GONE THROUGH WITH THE C-SECTION?
IT DIDN'T MAKE ME NERVOUS...
IT JUST SCARED ME.
NO... THAT'S NOT IT...

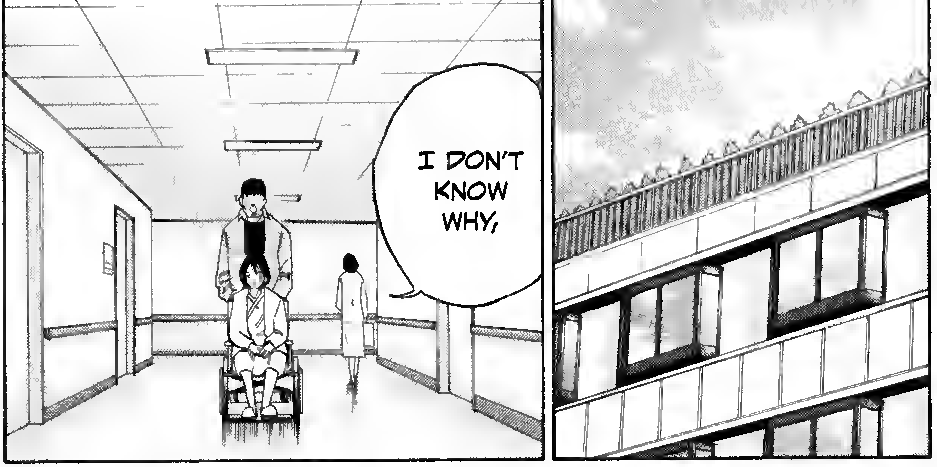
DELIVERING BABIES...
...I DON'T KNOW.
IS ALL ABOUT THE END RESULT.

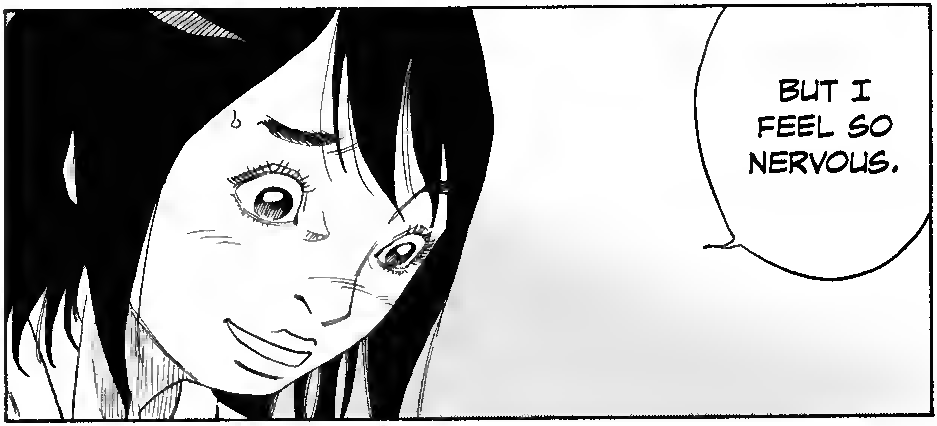
IF THE MOTHER AND THE BABY ARE ALRIGHT IN THE END,
FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN IF WE HAPPEN TO MAKE THE WRONG DECISION.
.....
IF WE MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION, AND MAKE NO MISTAKES,
ON THE OTHER HAND,
THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO BLAME US FOR.
THEN THE TRUST BETWEEN US AND THE PATIENT CRUMBLES.
BUT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THE MOTHER OR THE BABY,


THERE IS NO "RIGHT" DECISION...
THAT WE CAN GIVE TO A PATIENT.
.....
INSTEAD, WE HAVE TO GIVE THEM...
THE CORRECT INFOR-MATION,
AND COMMUNICATE PROPERLY WITH THEM.
.....
THEN WE DO OUR BEST TO CARRY OUT OUR DECISION.

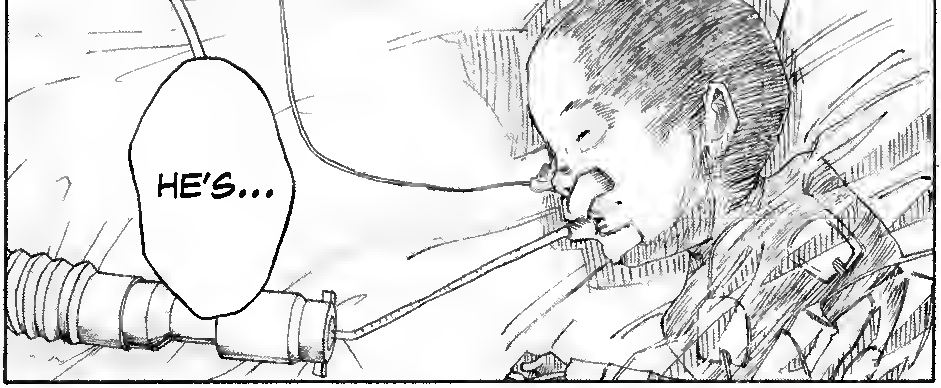
WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE RIGHT DECISION... IF THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE WE COULD HAVE DONE FOR THEM... THESE THOUGHTS ARE ALWAYS IN OUR MINDS.
.....
WE'RE ONLY HUMAN.
IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF ALL THAT,
WE MAY EVEN MAKE A MISTAKE.

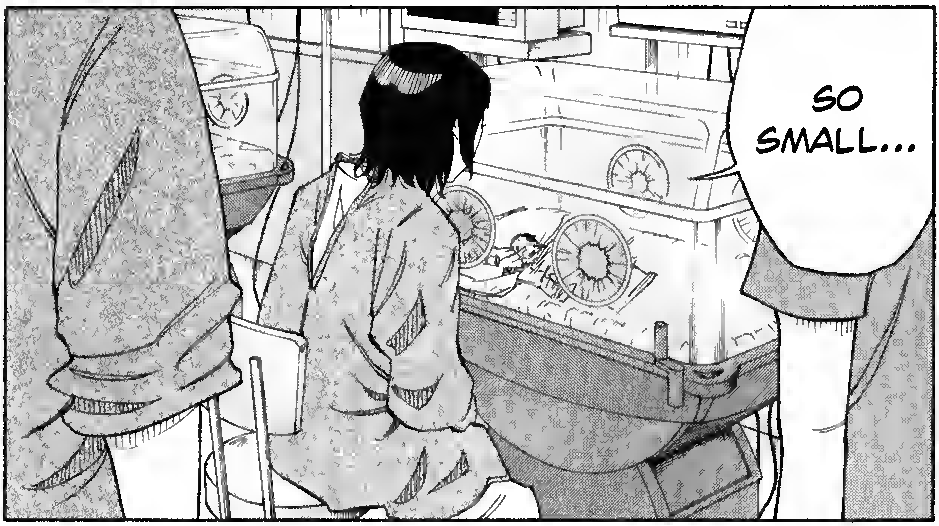
YOU CAN EITHER QUIT BEING AN OBSTETRICIAN...
OR KEEP MOVING FORWARD.


I DON'T KNOW WHY,

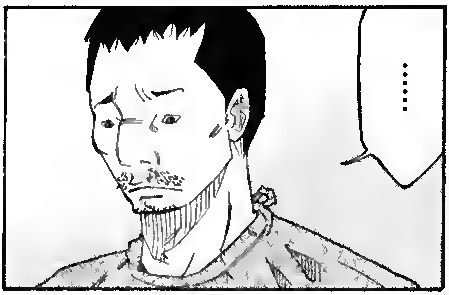

BUT I FEEL SO NERVOUS.

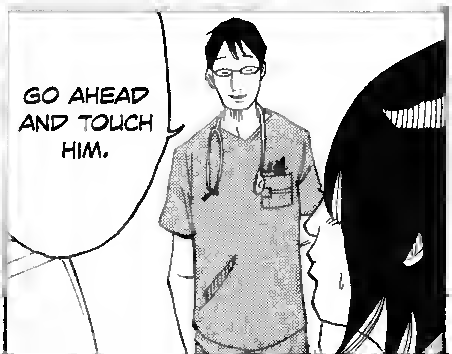
DAICHI'S TRYIN' HIS HARDEST.
DON'T YOU DARE CRY WHEN YOU SEE HIM. I DON'T WANT YOU FEELIN' SORRY FOR HIM.
Neonatal Care Unit (NICU)


HE'S...

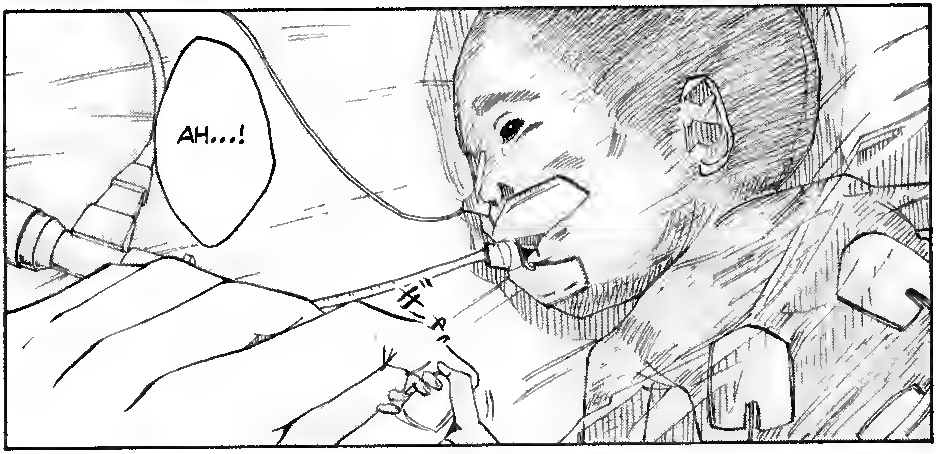

SO SMALL...

HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR HIS MOMMY TO GET HERE.


.....

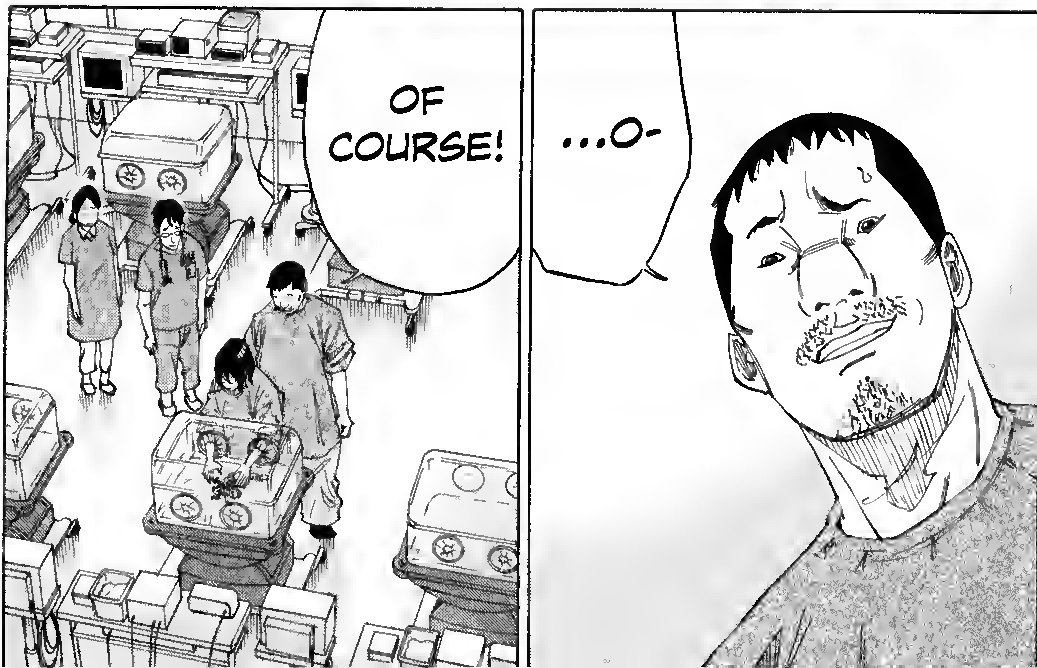

GO AHEAD AND TOUCH HIM.

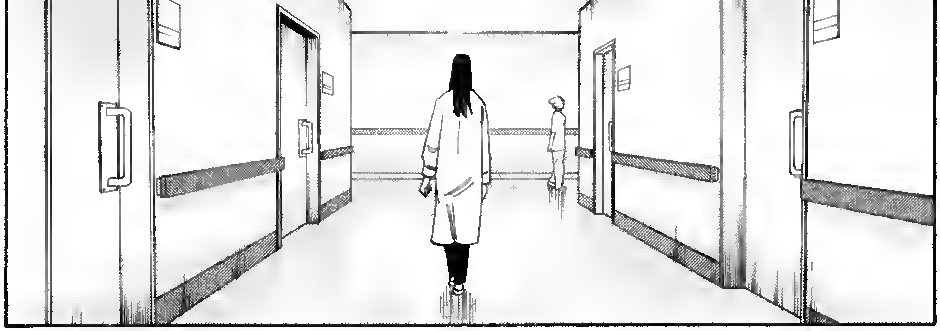
...HI, DAICHI.

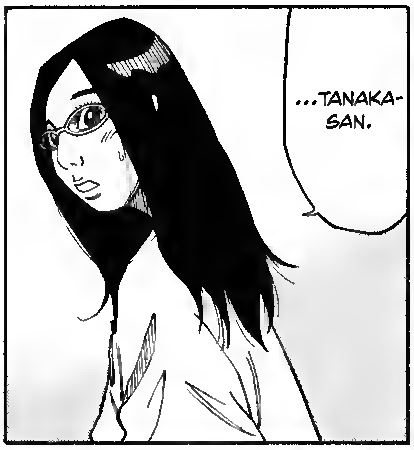

AH...!
ギュッ

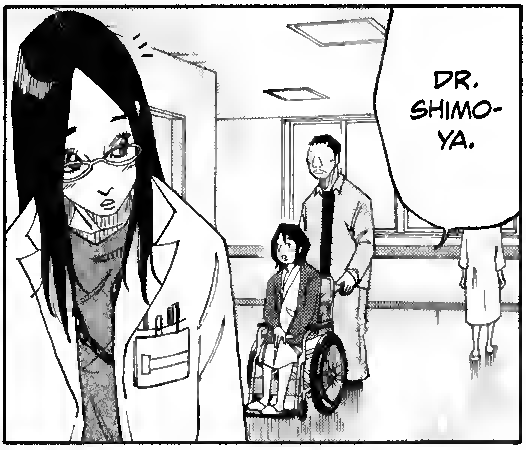
HEY, JUN-CHAN.
YEAH?
...HE'S SO WARM.
HEY, HE OPENED HIS EYES!

I CAN CRY...
IF I'M HAPPY, RIGHT...?

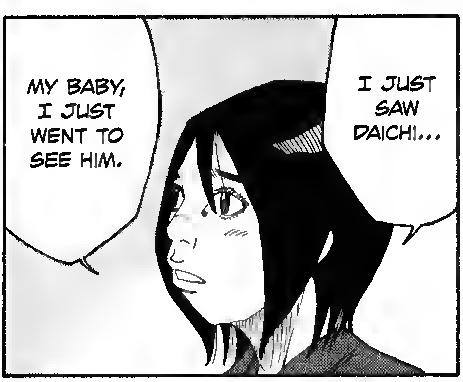

OF COURSE!
...O-

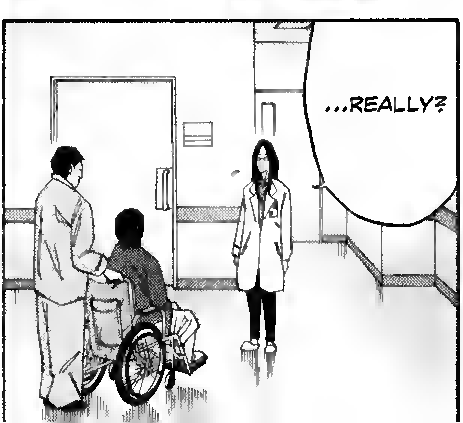



...TANAKA-SAN.


DR. SHIMO-YA.

WE JUST WANT TO THANK YOU.

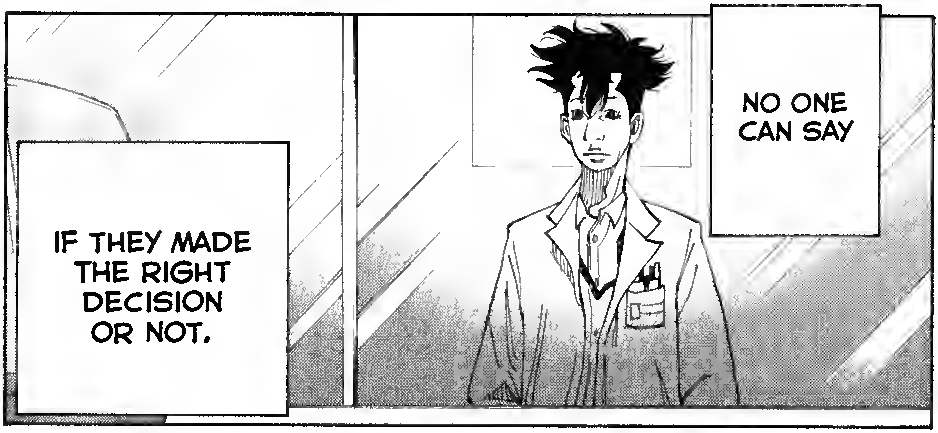

MY BABY, I JUST WENT TO SEE HIM.
I JUST SAW DAICHI...

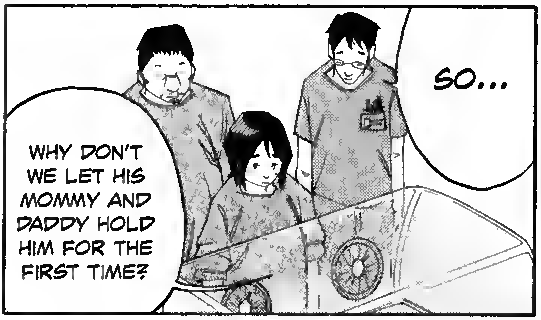

...REALLY?

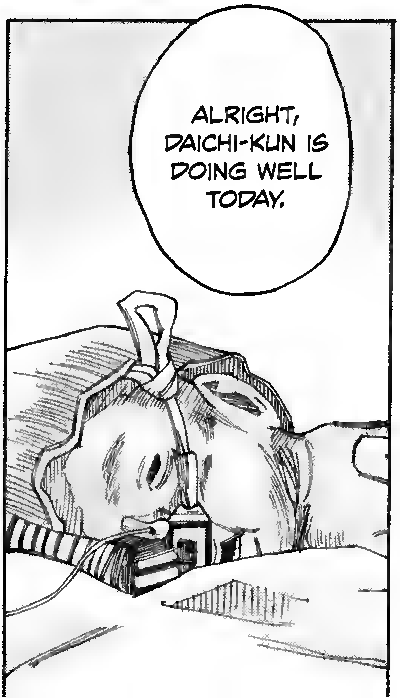
I'M SO GLAD I DECIDED TO GIVE BIRTH TO HIM.

TWO MONTHS LATER
DAICHI-KUN IS STILL ON A RESPIR-ATOR.
HE IS FED BREASTMILK BY A TUBE EIGHT TIMES A DAY.
COMES EVERY DAY WITH FRESH MILK FOR HIM.
DAICHI-KUN'S MOTHER

COMES WHEN HE CAN GET TIME.
DAICHI-KUN'S FATHER
DAICHI!


IF THEY MADE THE RIGHT DECISION OR NOT.
NO ONE CAN SAY


WHY DON'T WE LET HIS MOMMY AND DADDY HOLD HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME?
SO...


ALRIGHT, DAICHI-KUN IS DOING WELL TODAY.

REA-LLY?!
HUH?

DR. KOUNO-TORI!
HEY, SHIMOYA.
OH, NO, I'M NOT GOING TO THE STORE...
ON THE WAY TO THE STORE? COULD YOU GRAB ME AN INSTANT YAKISOBA?
AFTER ALL, NO ONE CAN SAY
I'M GOING TO SEE DAICHI-KUN.

WHAT THE RIGHT DECISION WAS

FOR THOSE PARENTS.
c'mon, let me hold him!

Kounotori: The Stork

presented in English by Futari wa Pretty Anon

Translation & Scanlation by AnonBlack
with thanks to the proofreading team

HQ direct download available on our website
prettyanonymo.us #prettyanon@irc.rizon.net

Tenta's first lion.

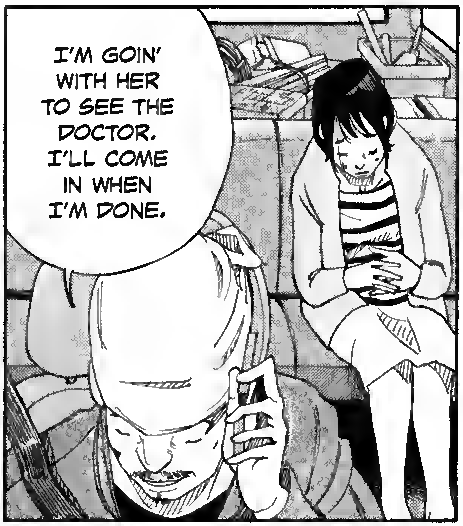
Tenta
age 3

TRACK 2

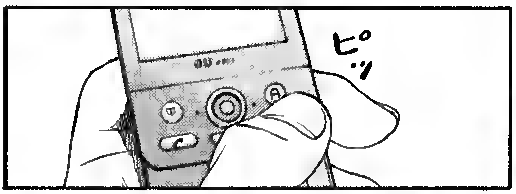
PREEMIE

PREEMIE
PART 1

YEAH...
YEAH, MY WIFE SAYS HER STOMACH'S HURTIN'...


I'M GOIN' WITH HER TO SEE THE DOCTOR. I'LL COME IN WHEN I'M DONE.

...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SHE'S PREGNANT, SO...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ブルル!

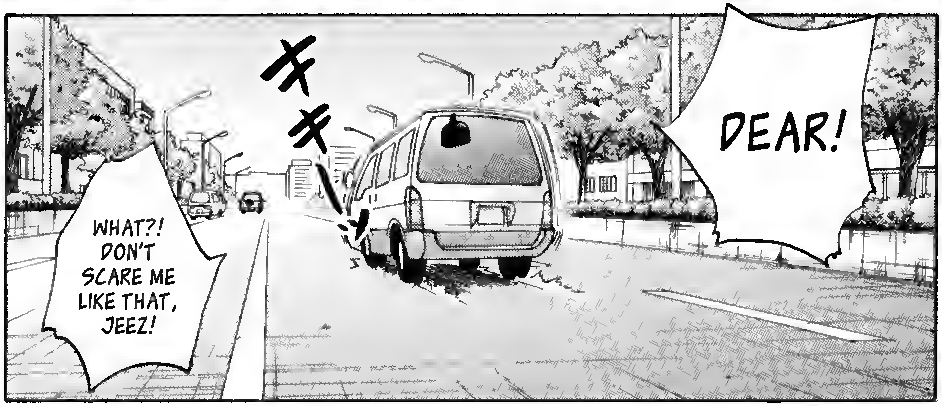
YEAH, YEAH, THANKS. BYE NOW.
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME IN AROUND ONE...

SORRY FOR WHAT? WORK SAID IT'S FINE.
SORRY.

...ALL RIGHT.

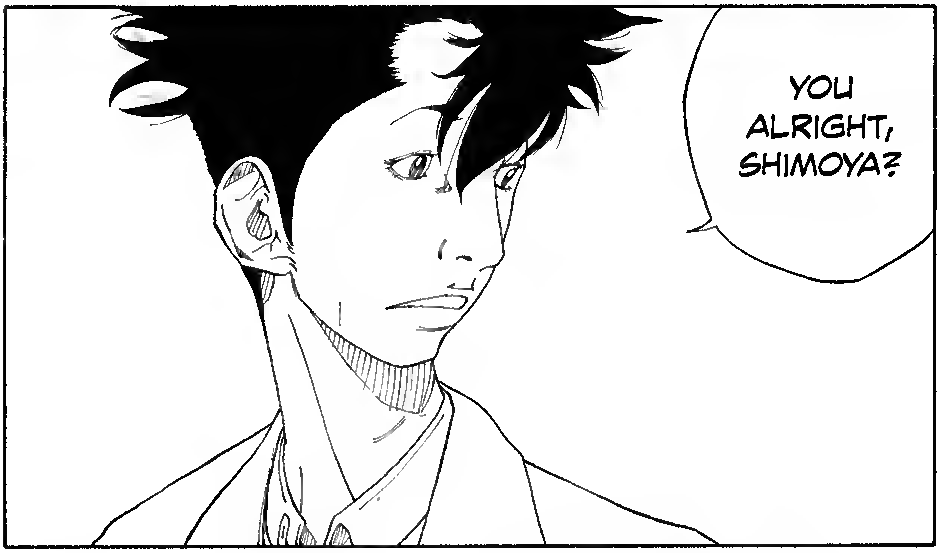
WHEN WE WENT IN YESTERDAY, THE DOCTOR TOLD US EVERYTHING WAS GOIN' FINE.
HUH?
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY 'BOUT IT.

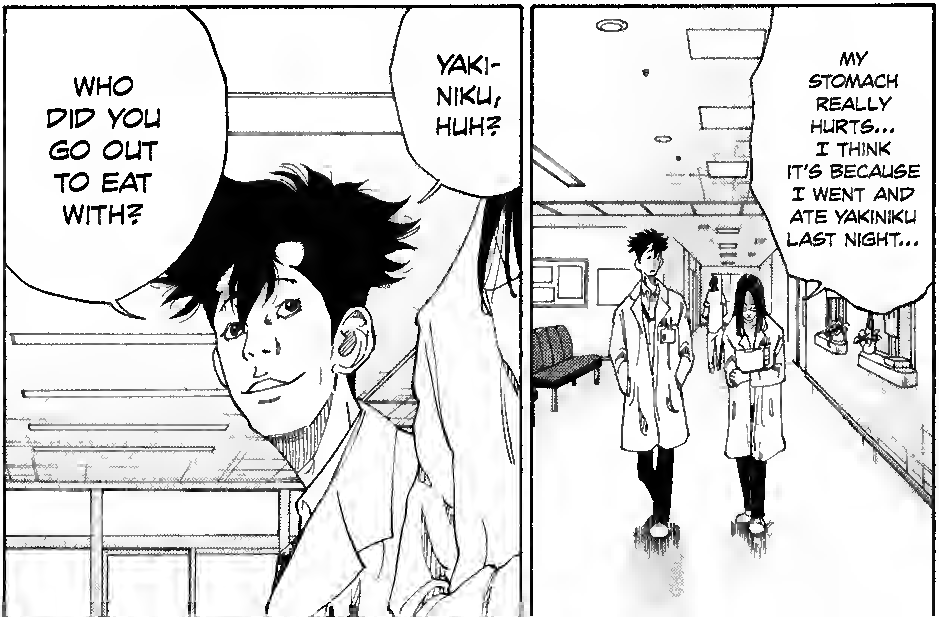
hee hee hee
SHE MIGHT JUST SAY YOU'RE REALLY CONSTI-PATED.
DEAR...
.....
AND HEY,
DEAR...


キキ
WHAT?! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT, JEEZ!
DEAR!

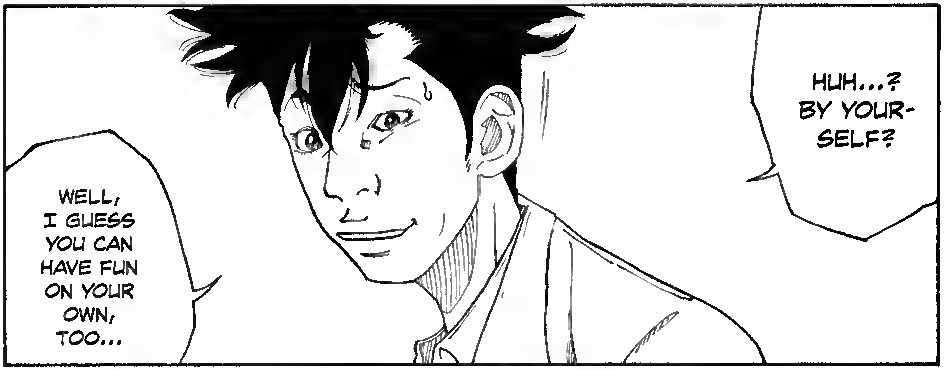
.....!
I THINK... MY WATER BROKE.

GH...

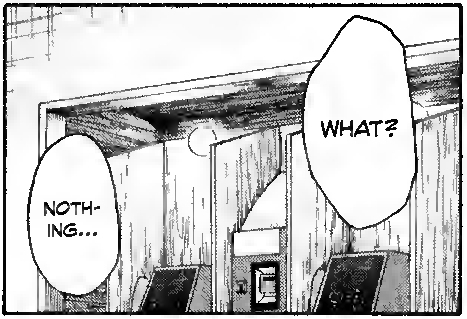

YOU ALRIGHT, SHIMOYA?


WHO DID YOU GO OUT TO EAT WITH?
YAKI-NIKU, HUH?
MY STOMACH REALLY HURTS... I THINK IT'S BECAUSE I WENT AND ATE YAKINIKU LAST NIGHT...

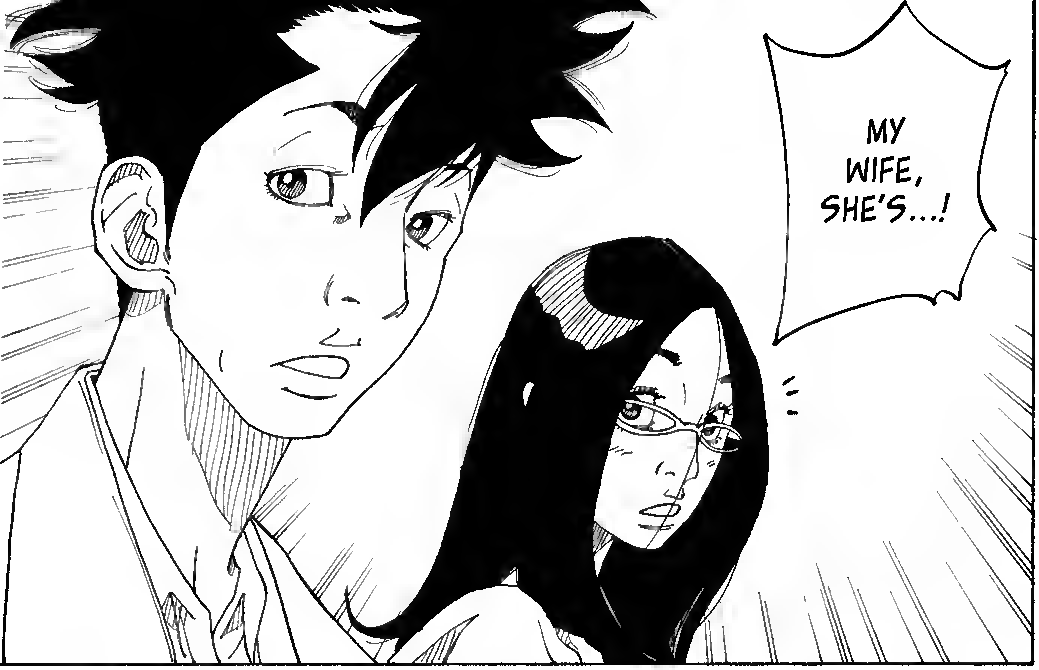
I WENT BY MYSELF.

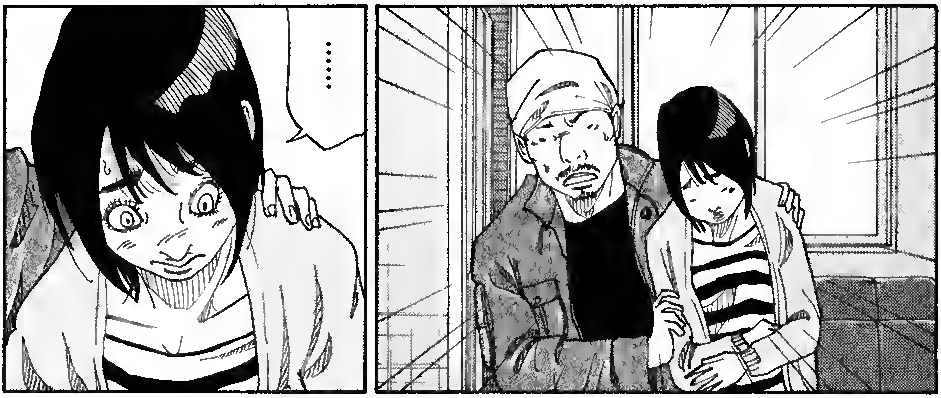

HUH...? BY YOURSELF?
WELL, I GUESS YOU CAN HAVE FUN ON YOUR OWN, TOO...

E... EXCUSE ME!


WHAT?
NOTHING...

ARE YOU GOING TO TREAT ME, DR. KOUNOTORI?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO COME WITH YOU NEXT TIME?


MY WIFE, SHE'S...!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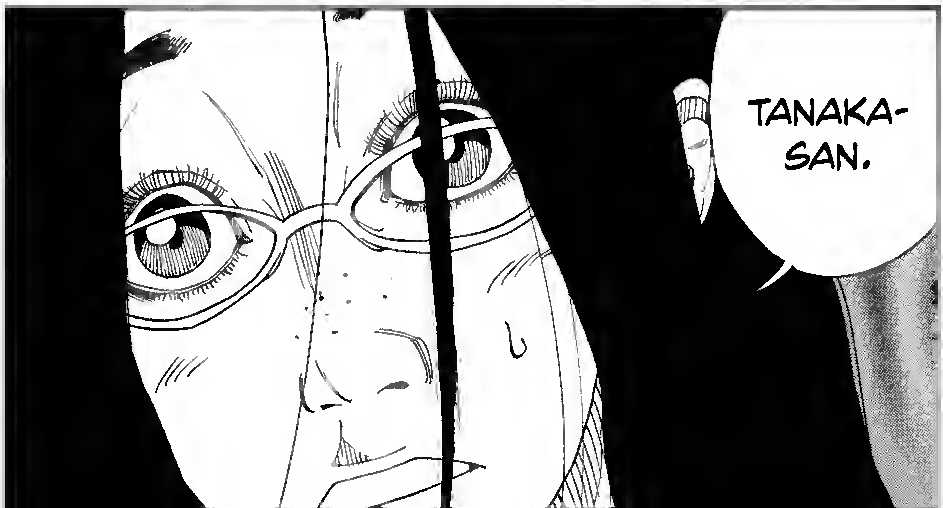
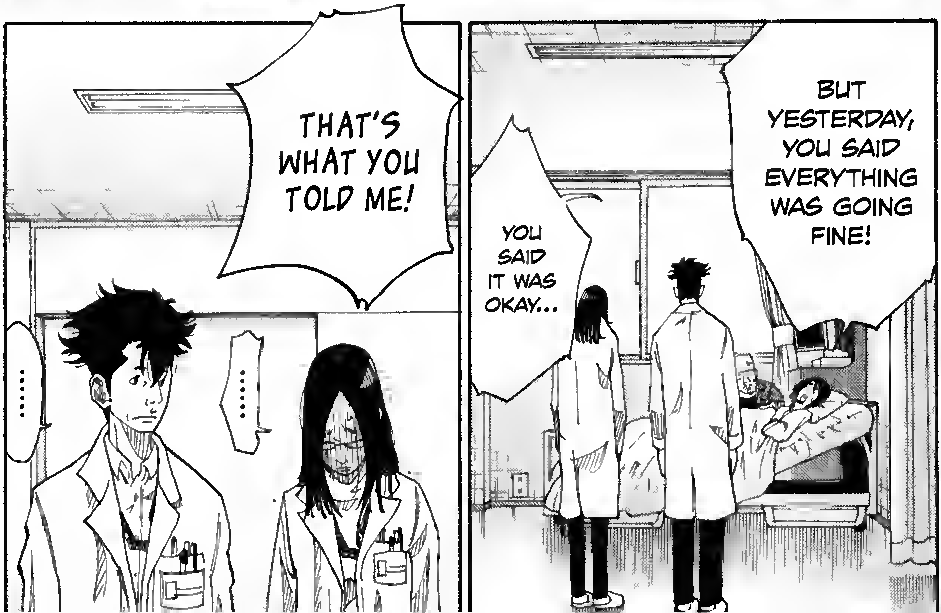

TANAKA-SAN.

PRETERM PREMATURE RUPTURE OF MEMBRANES...
ALSO CALLED PPROM.
BUT MY BABY...
MY BABY'S OKAY, RIGHT?!
IN SOME CASES, IT LEADS TO MISCARRIAGE.
HOW-EVER,
IF YOU WERE TO GIVE BIRTH RIGHT NOW,
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE AT 21 WEEKS AND ONE DAY, AND YOUR BABY WEIGHT 420 GRAMS, OR 14 OUNCES.
YOUR BABY'S HEART IS BEATING, TOO.

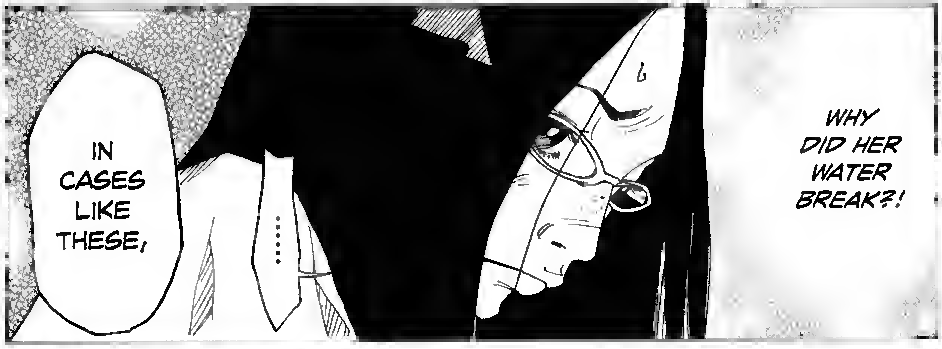
WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR BABY WILL LIVE.

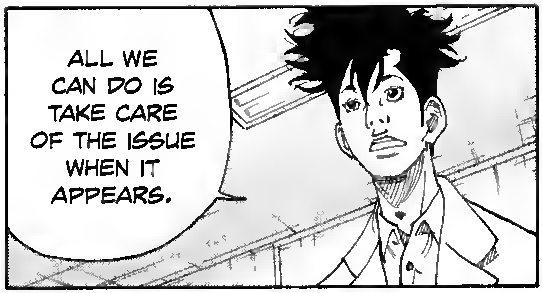
NO...
HUH?

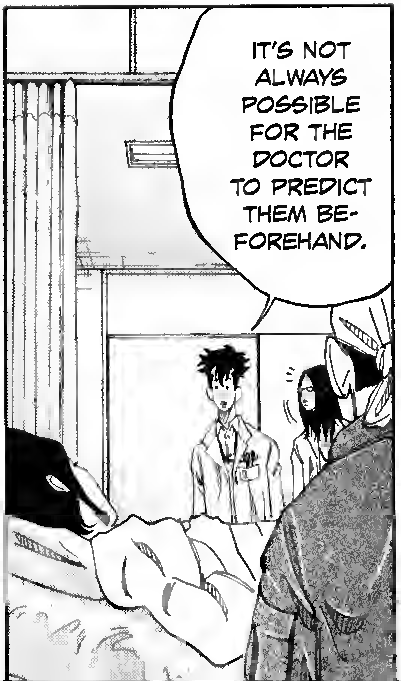

THAT'S WHAT YOU TOLD ME!
.....
.....
YOU SAID IT WAS OKAY...
BUT YESTERDAY, YOU SAID EVERYTHING WAS GOING FINE!

DR. SHIMOYA, YOU TOLD ME THAT YESTERDAY, DIDN'T YOU?!
WHY?!
EVERY-THING IS GOING FINE.
...BUT EVER SINCE LAST NIGHT, MY BELLY'S BEEN HURTING A LITTLE. IT FEELS STRAINED.
.....
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
YOUR CERVIX IS CLOSED, AND YOU'RE NOT BLEEDING, SO EVERYTHING SHOULD BE OKAY.
...I SEE.

IF THE PAIN DOESN'T GO AWAY, AND YOU'RE STILL WORRIED,
FEEL FREE TO COME IN TO SEE ME.

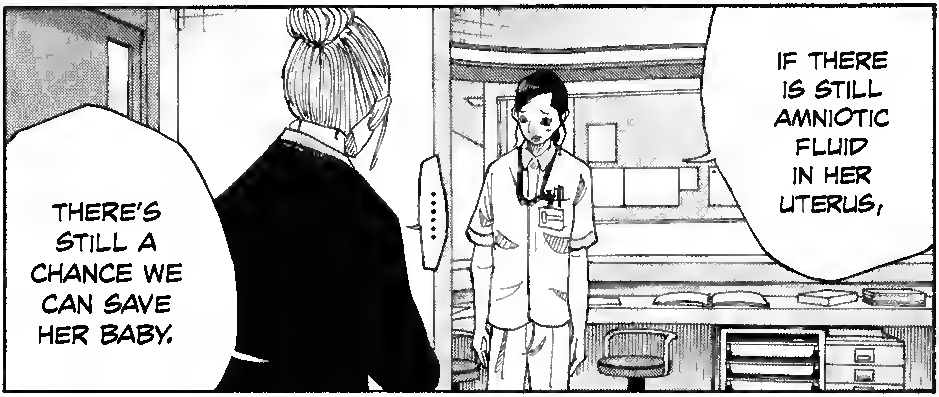

IN CASES LIKE THESE,
.....
WHY DID HER WATER BREAK?!

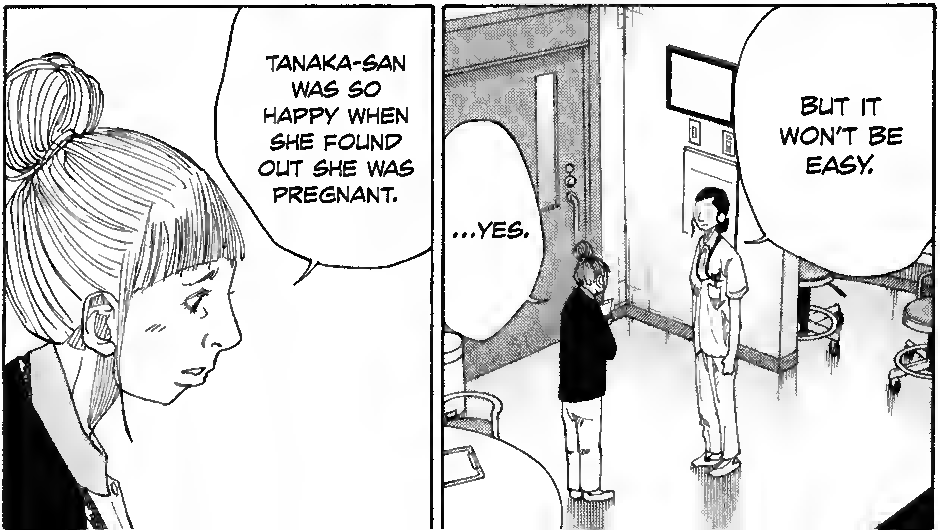

ALL WE CAN DO IS TAKE CARE OF THE ISSUE WHEN IT APPEARS.


IT'S NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE FOR THE DOCTOR TO PREDICT THEM BE-FOREHAND.

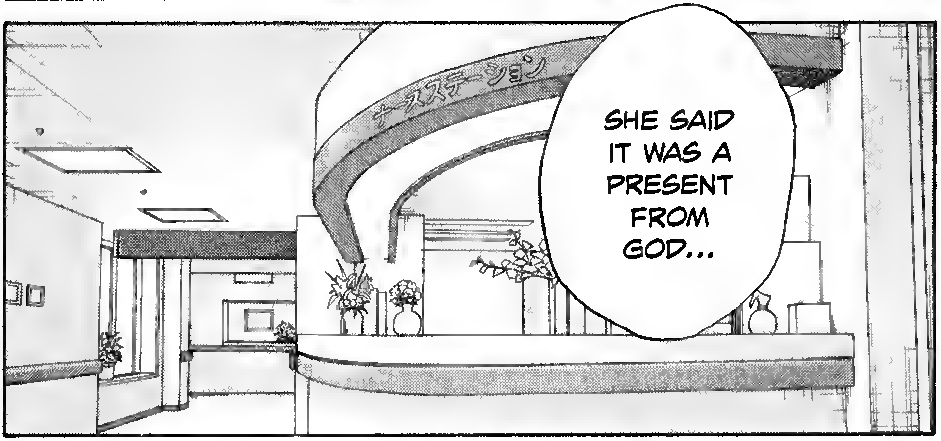
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND, BUT...

HMM... WELL, IF HER WATER HAS COMPLETELY BROKEN,
IS TANAKA-SAN ALRIGHT?
ナースステーション
THEN HER AMNIOTIC FLUID IS GONE, AND WE CAN'T SAVE THE BABY, BUT...

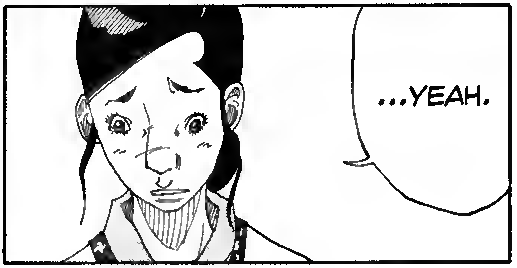

IF THERE IS STILL AMNIOTIC FLUID IN HER UTERUS,
.....
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE WE CAN SAVE HER BABY.


TANAKA-SAN WAS SO HAPPY WHEN SHE FOUND OUT SHE WAS PREGNANT.
...YES.
BUT IT WON'T BE EASY.

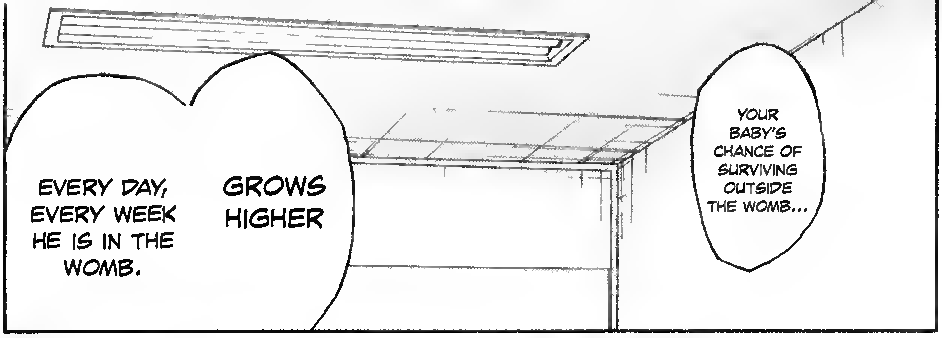
SHE'S BEEN MARRIED FOR TEN YEARS,
AND NOW SHE'S FINALLY PREGNANT AT THE END OF HER THIRTIES...

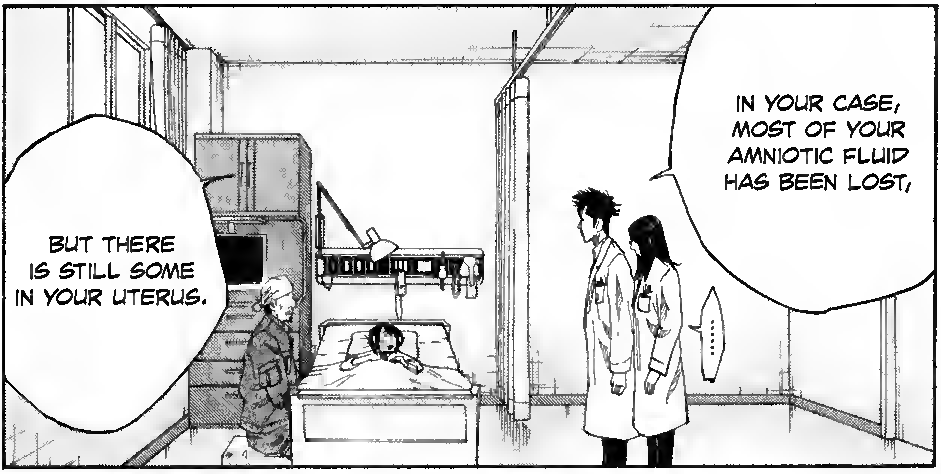

SHE SAID IT WAS A PRESENT FROM GOD...

COME ON, LET'S DO ROUNDS.
R-RIGHT!

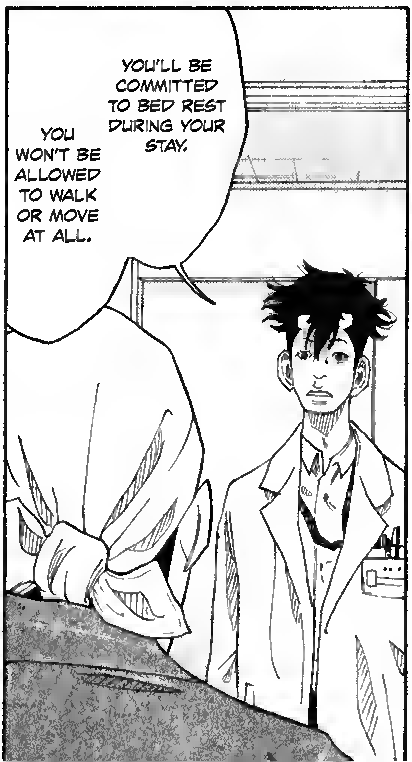

...YEAH.

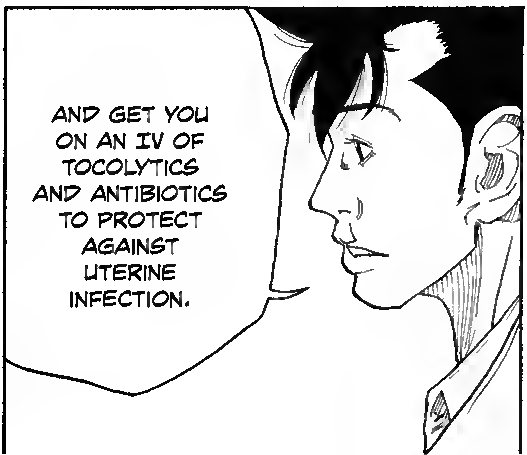
BUT I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY.
SHE'S GOT DR. KOUNO-TORI AND DR. SHIMOYA.
.....

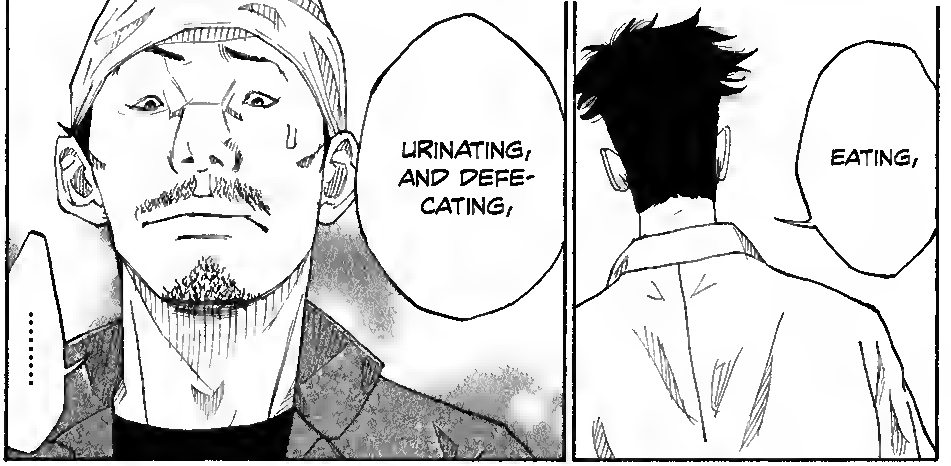

YOUR BABY'S CHANCE OF SURVIVING OUTSIDE THE WOMB...
EVERY DAY, EVERY WEEK HE IS IN THE WOMB.
GROWS HIGHER


IN YOUR CASE, MOST OF YOUR AMNIOTIC FLUID HAS BEEN LOST,
BUT THERE IS STILL SOME IN YOUR UTERUS.

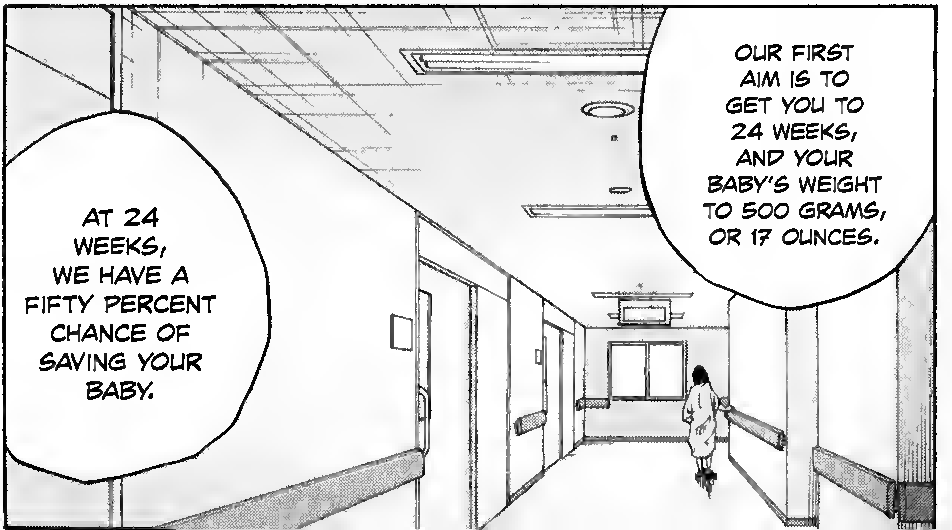
IF WE'RE GOING TO SAVE YOUR BABY, WE'LL ADMIT YOU TO THE HOSPITAL AT ONCE,

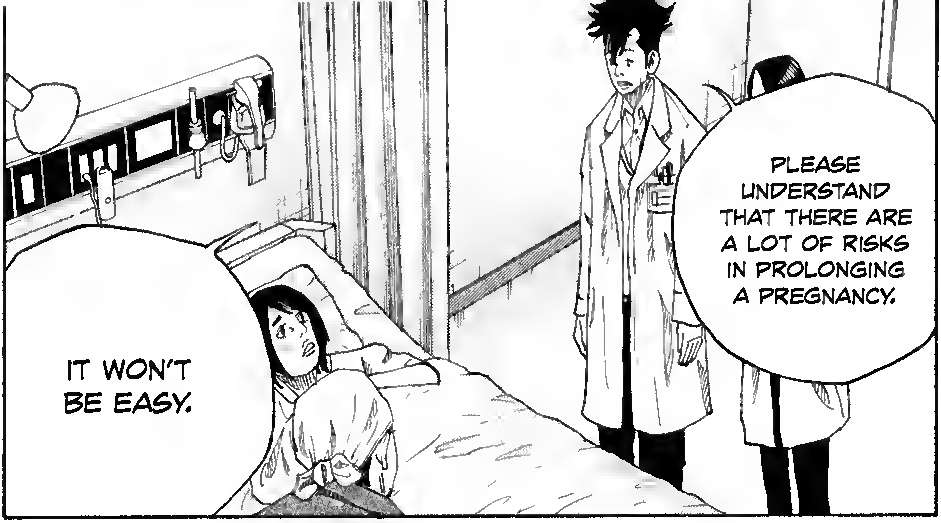

YOU'LL BE COMMITTED TO BED REST DURING YOUR STAY.
YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO WALK OR MOVE AT ALL.

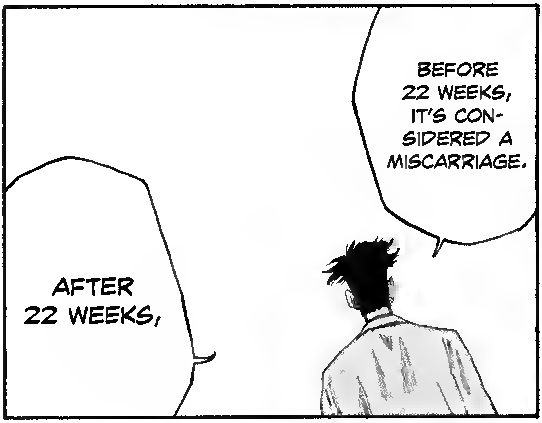

AND GET YOU ON AN IV OF TOCOLYTICS AND ANTIBIOTICS TO PROTECT AGAINST UTERINE INFECTION.


.....
URINATING, AND DEFECATING,
EATING,

WILL ALL HAVE TO BE DONE FROM YOUR BED.

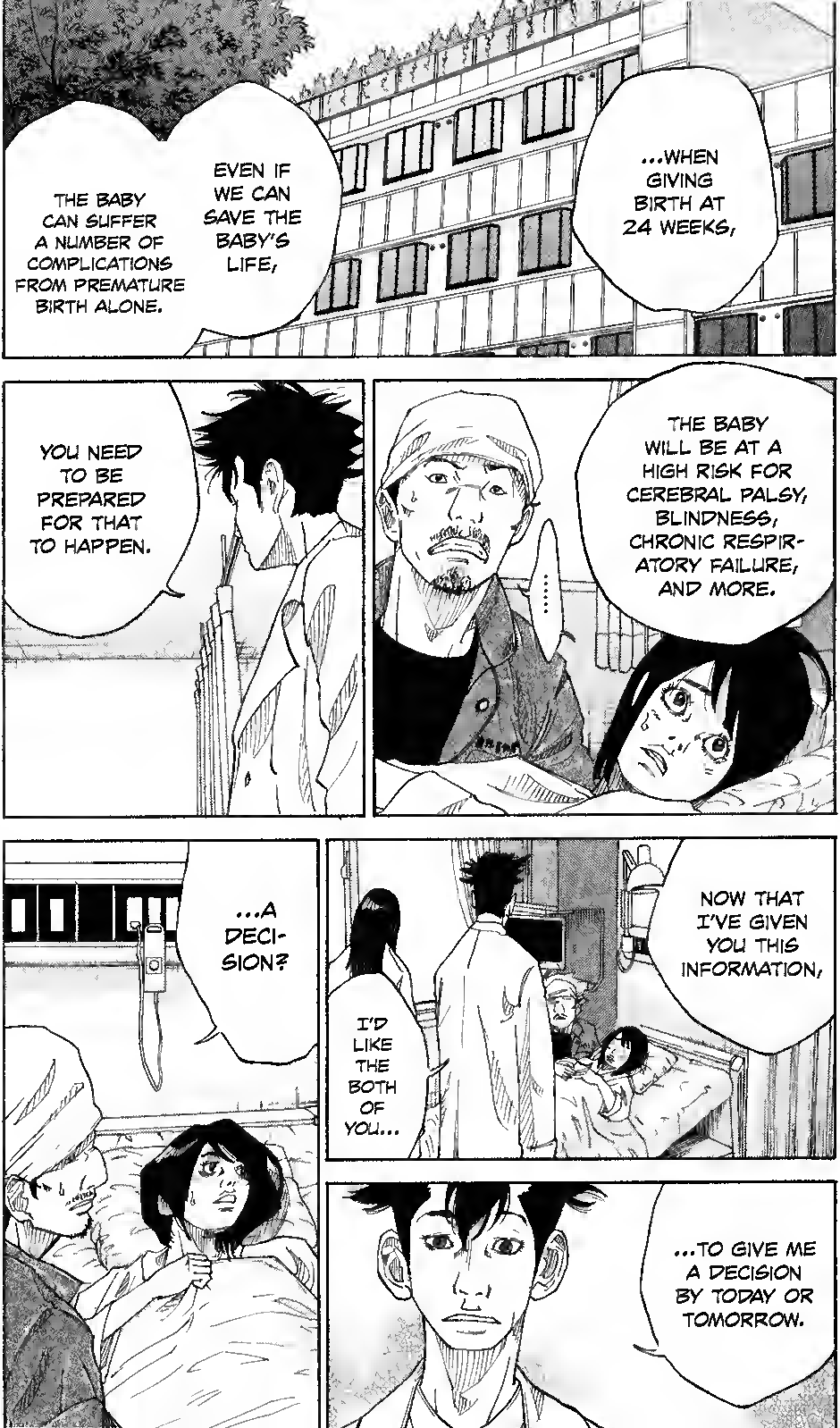

AT 24 WEEKS, WE HAVE A FIFTY PERCENT CHANCE OF SAVING YOUR BABY.
OUR FIRST AIM IS TO GET YOU TO 24 WEEKS, AND YOUR BABY'S WEIGHT TO 500 GRAMS, OR 17 OUNCES.


PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF RISKS IN PROLONGING A PREGNANCY.
IT WON'T BE EASY.


BEFORE 22 WEEKS, IT'S CONSIDERED A MISCARRIAGE.
AFTER 22 WEEKS,

IF YOU CAN'T SAVE IT, THEN SHE MISCARRIES?

IT'S A STILL-BIRTH.


...WHEN GIVING BIRTH AT 24 WEEKS,
EVEN IF WE CAN SAVE THE BABY'S LIFE,
THE BABY CAN SUFFER A NUMBER OF COMPLICATIONS FROM PREMATURE BIRTH ALONE.
THE BABY WILL BE AT A HIGH RISK FOR CEREBRAL PALSY, BLINDNESS, CHRONIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE, AND MORE.
.....
YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.
NOW THAT I'VE GIVEN YOU THIS INFORMATION,
I'D LIKE THE BOTH OF YOU...
...TO GIVE ME A DECISION BY TODAY OR TOMORROW.
...A DECISION?

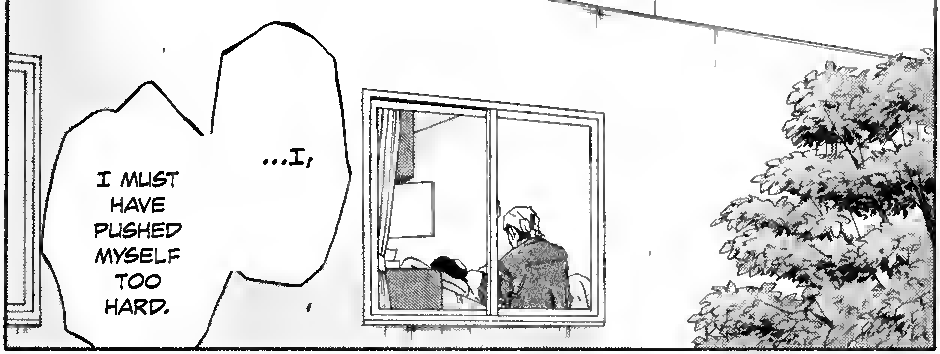
YOU NEED TO DECIDE IF YOU WILL TAKE THE RISKS...
AND TRY TO SAVE YOUR BABY.

EVEN IF WE CAN SAVE THE BABY'S LIFE,
THE BABY CAN SUFFER A NUMBER OF COMPLICATIONS FROM PREMATURE BIRTH ALONE.

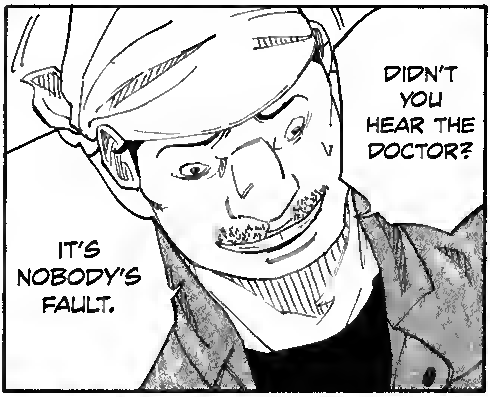
YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.
.....
THE BABY WILL BE AT A HIGH RISK FOR CEREBRAL PALSY, BLINDNESS, CHRONIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE, AND MORE.

....A DECISION?
NOW THAT I'VE GIVEN YOU THIS INFORMATION,
I'D LIKE THE BOTH OF YOU TO GIVE ME A DECISION BY TODAY OR TOMORROW.

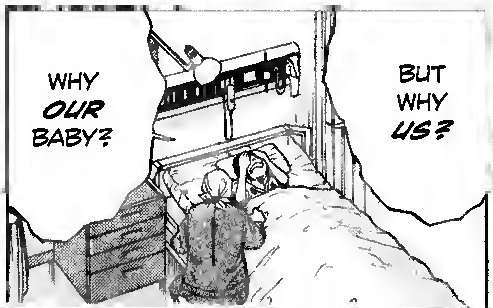
YOU NEED TO DECIDE IF YOU WILL TAKE THE RISKS...
AND TRY TO SAVE YOUR BABY.


I MUST HAVE PUSHED MYSELF TOO HARD.
...I,

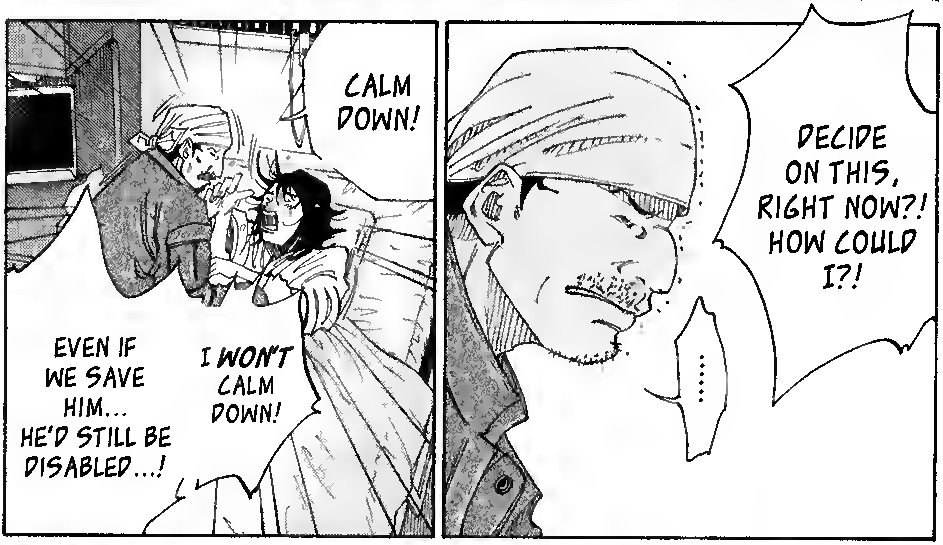
...I'M SORRY.


DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE DOCTOR?
IT'S NOBODY'S FAULT.

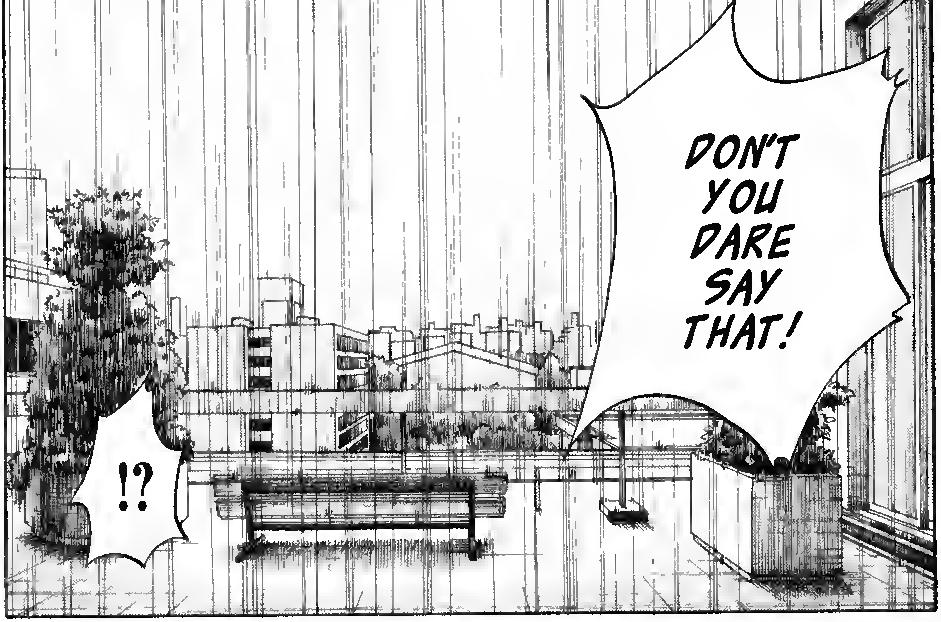
D... DON'T BE SILLY.
WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?

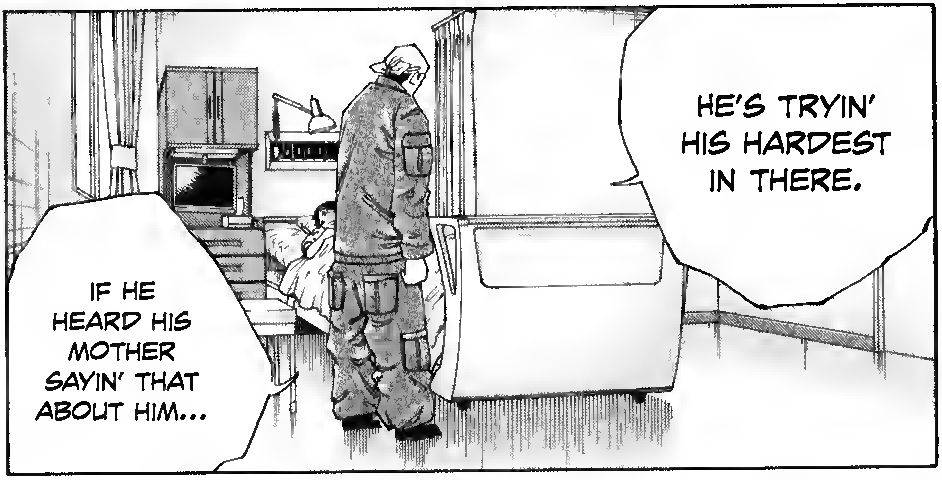

WHY *OUR* BABY?
BUT WHY *US*?

H-
HEY!
NO,
NO!
I CAN'T
DO IT!


CALM
DOWN!
EVEN IF
WE SAVE
HIM...
HE'D STILL BE
DISABLED...!
I WON'T
CALM
DOWN!
DECIDE
ON THIS,
RIGHT NOW?!
HOW COULD
I?!
.....

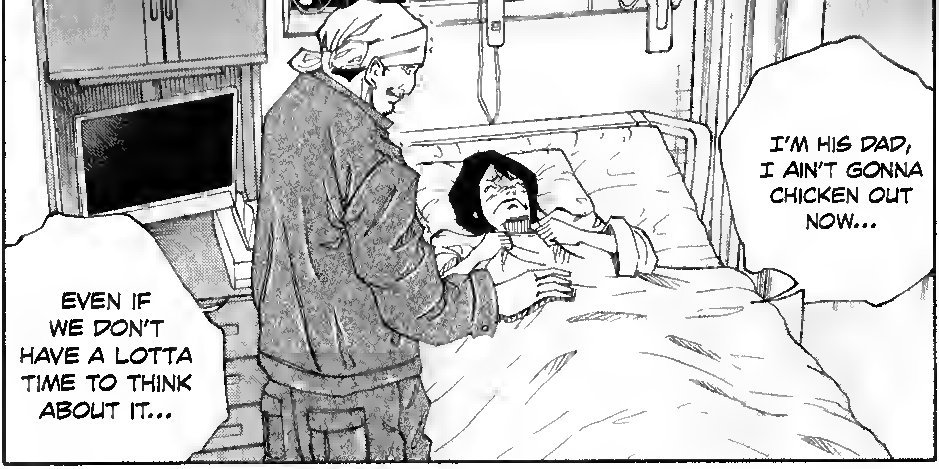
OUR
BABY...
OUR
POOR,
POOR
BABY!


DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT!
!?


HE'S TRYIN' HIS HARDEST IN THERE.
IF HE HEARD HIS MOTHER SAYIN' THAT ABOUT HIM...

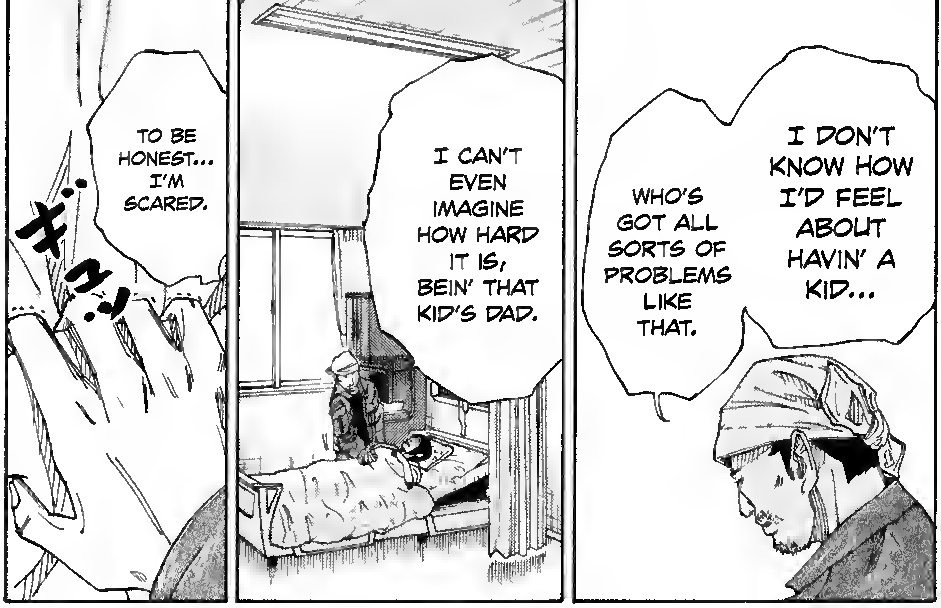
I'M GONNA FACE THIS DECISION HEAD-ON.

YOU THINK HE COULD STILL GO ON?


EVEN IF WE DON'T HAVE A LOTTA TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT...
I'M HIS DAD, I AIN'T GONNA CHICKEN OUT NOW...

AND MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION!
WE'LL REALLY MULL IT OVER...

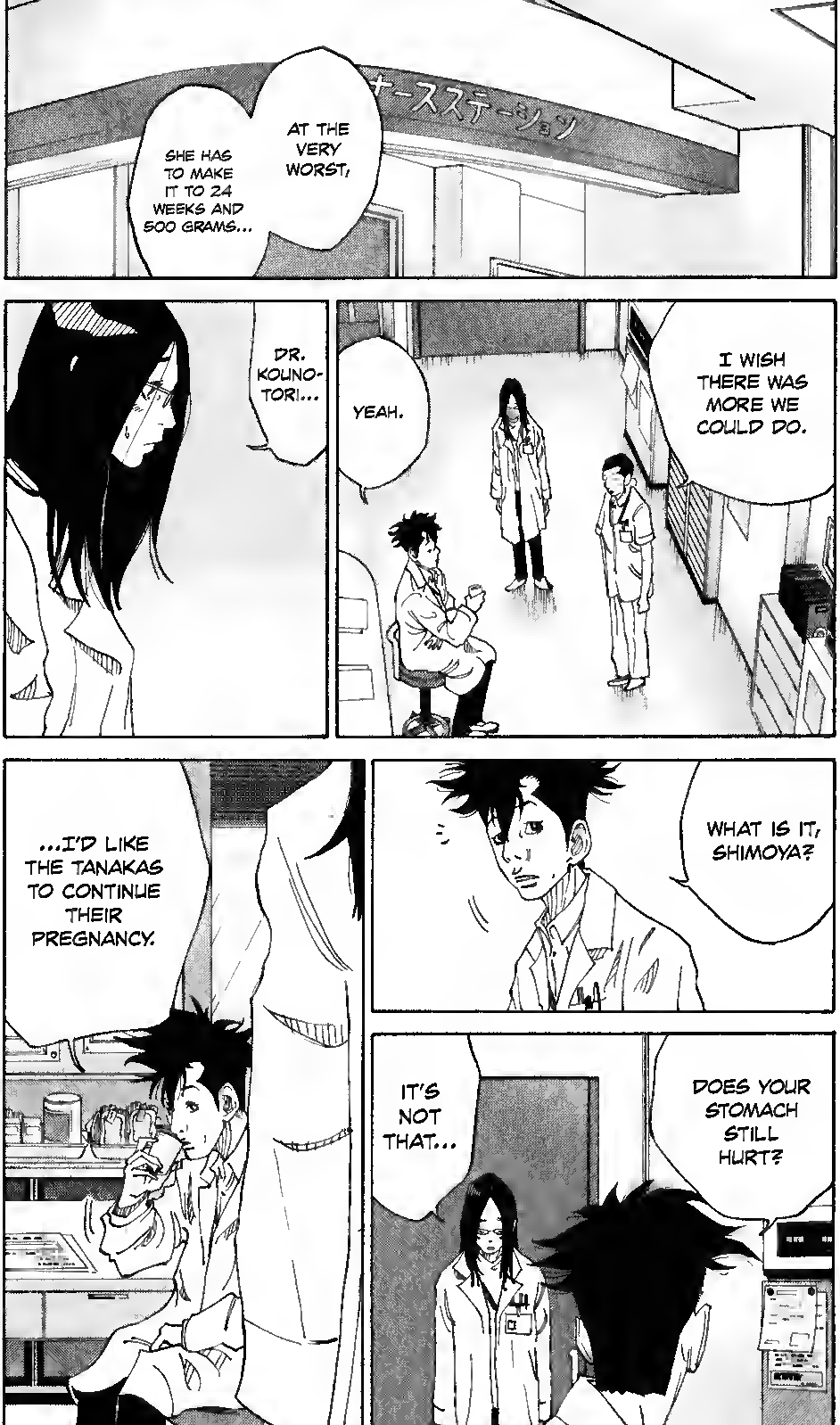
IS YOU AND ME, RIGHT?
GH...
ALL THIS LITTLE GUY HAS...


I DON'T KNOW HOW I'D FEEL ABOUT HAVIN' A KID...
WHO'S GOT ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS LIKE THAT.
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW HARD IT IS, BEIN' THAT KID'S DAD.
TO BE HONEST... I'M SCARED.
ギュッ

BUT I WANT HIM TO BE BORN...
I'M SORRY...
IT MIGHT BE REALLY HARD ON YOU...

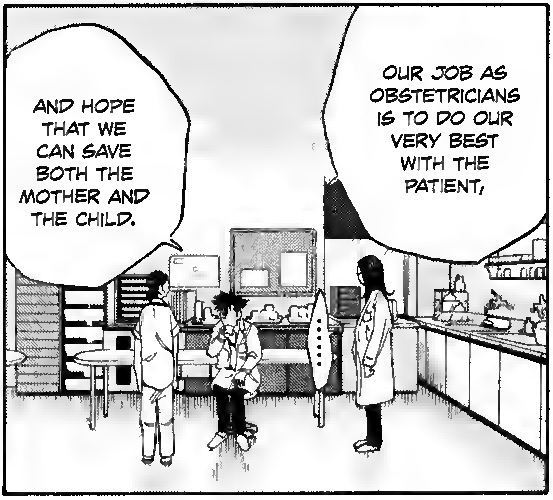
.....
BUT I WANNA DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR OUR BABY.

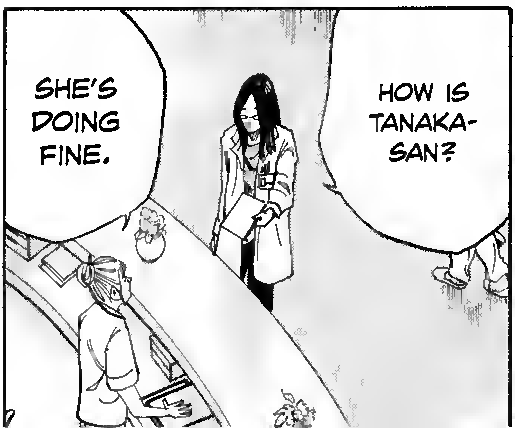
WE'VE WAITED TEN YEARS...
FOR OUR BABY.

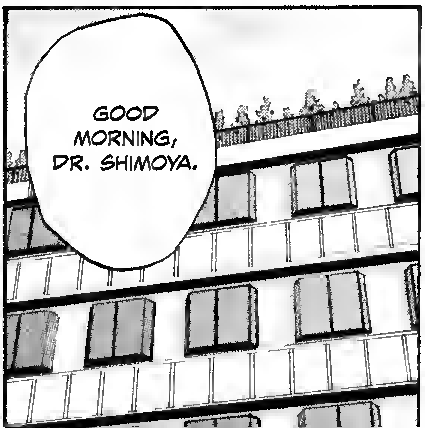

ナースステーション
AT THE VERY WORST,
SHE HAS TO MAKE IT TO 24 WEEKS AND 500 GRAMS...
DR. KOUNO-TORI...
YEAH.
I WISH THERE WAS MORE WE COULD DO.
...I'D LIKE THE TANAKAS TO CONTINUE THEIR PREGNANCY.
WHAT IS IT, SHIMOYA?
IT'S NOT THAT...
DOES YOUR STOMACH STILL HURT?

WHEN THINGS DON'T LOOK GOOD,
.....
AND HAVE US FEELING DOWN,

...YES, I KNOW.


AND HOPE THAT WE CAN SAVE BOTH THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD.
OUR JOB AS OBSTETRICIANS IS TO DO OUR VERY BEST WITH THE PATIENT,
.....

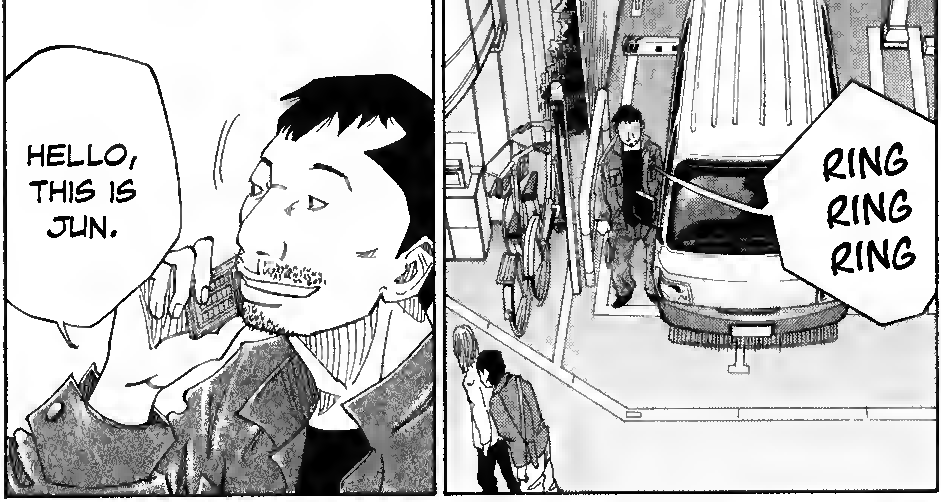

SHE'S DOING FINE.
HOW IS TANAKA-SAN?


GOOD MORNING, DR. SHIMOYA.

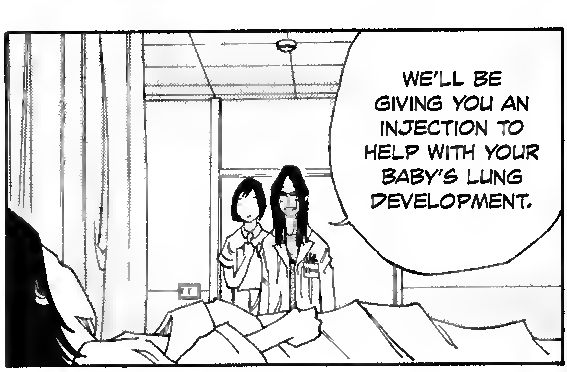
SHE REALLY IS WORRIED ABOUT HER.
DR. SHIMOYA'S ASKED ABOUT TANAKA-SAN EVERY MORNING FOR THE LAST FIVE DAYS.
I THINK IT'S A GOOD THING.
TANAKA-SAN... MADE IT TO 22 WEEKS TODAY, RIGHT?
YES... AND SHE HASN'T LOST ANY MORE AMNIOTIC FLUID.
BUT SHE HASN'T REGAINED ANY FLUID, EITHER.
WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP A CAREFUL EYE ON HER STILL.
RIGHT.

YOU WANT TO TAKE TIME OFF?
HUH?
株式会社 小林工務店
SORRY IT'S SO SUDDEN.
MY WIFE'S IN THE HOSPITAL...
AH, WELL,
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THE BABY?
I JUST WANT TO BE THERE FOR HER WHILE SHE'S THERE.

I ASKED A MECHANIC FRIEND TO HELP FILL IN FOR ME IF YOU NEED IT.
YOU'RE NOT AN IN-HOUSE EMPLOYEE, JUN-CHAN, SO IT'S NOT HARD TO GET TIME OFF FOR YOU...
BUT WITHOUT YOU ON THE JOB, WE'RE NOT GONNA GET MUCH DONE...
ペコ
I'M SORRY TO ASK SO MUCH OF YOU...
BUT PLEASE, LET ME HAVE TIME OFF!
ALRIGHT... BUT AS SOON AS THAT BABY'S BORN,
YOU'RE COMIN' RIGHT BACK, YOU HEAR?!

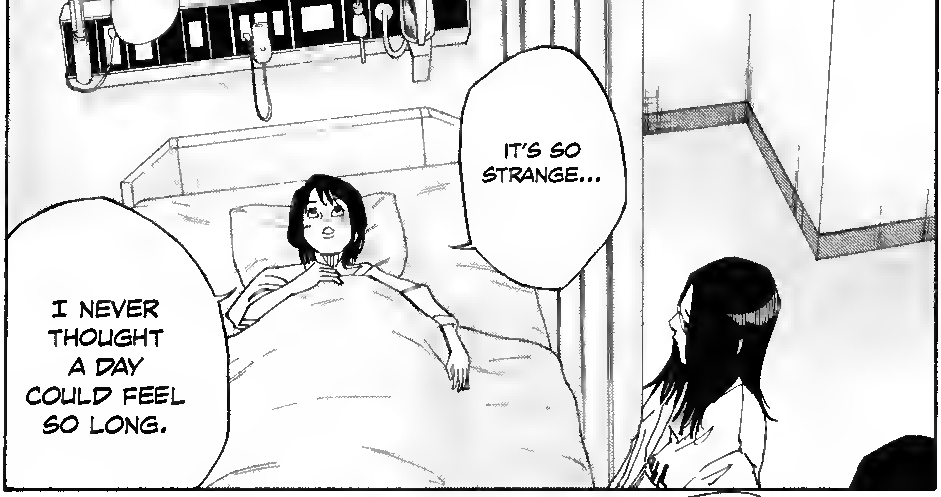

HELLO, THIS IS JUN.
RING RING RING

AH, YOU'RE HERE?
I'LL COME PICK YOU UP.


WE'LL BE GIVING YOU AN INJECTION TO HELP WITH YOUR BABY'S LUNG DEVELOPMENT.

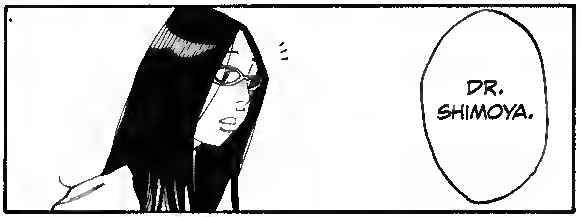
TODAY YOU REACHED THE 22-WEEK MARK.

...ONLY 22 WEEKS?


IT'S SO STRANGE...
I NEVER THOUGHT A DAY COULD FEEL SO LONG.

IF ONLY THE WEEKS COULD PASS LIKE DAYS...
.....

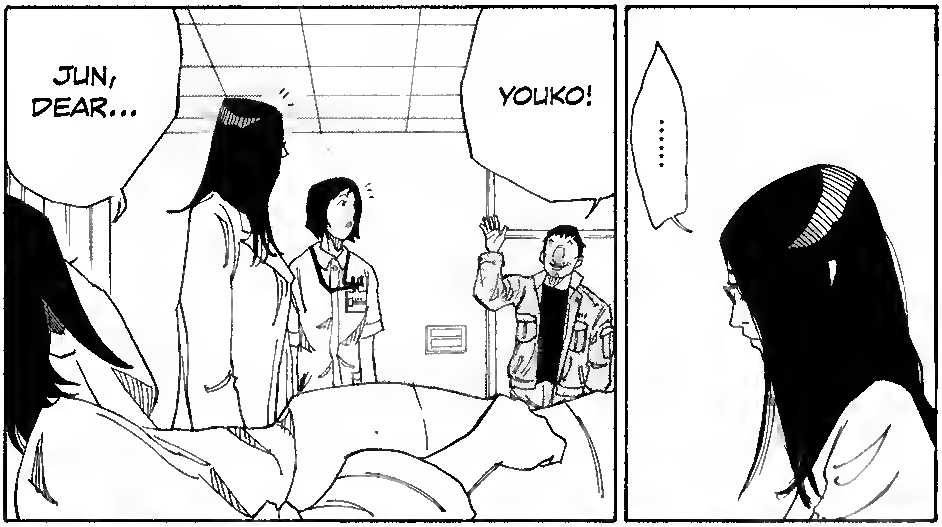
I MEAN, JUST ONE WEEK AGO,


DR. SHIMOYA.

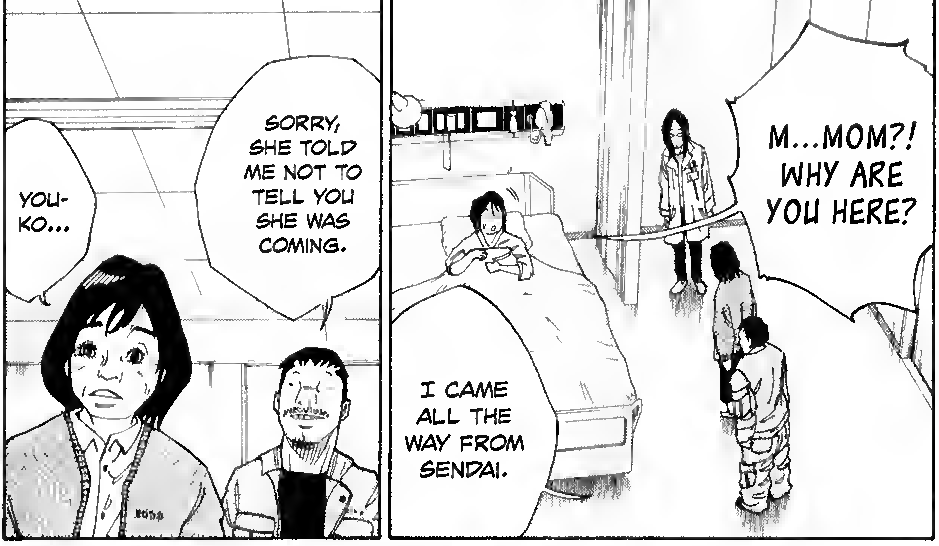
IT'S ONLY BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE I WAS ADMITTED...
BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE THIS IS ALL A BIG JOKE.

I WAS READING PARENTING BOOKS WITH A BIG SMILE ON MY FACE...
WONDERING WHAT I'D NAME HIM...
HOW I'D RAISE HIM...
I HAD SUCH HAPPY CONVERSATIONS WITH MY HUSBAND.
BUT NOW, HERE I AM...
EVERY MORNING, WHEN I WAKE UP,
I TELL MY BABY,
"LET'S WORK HARD TODAY, OKAY?"
.....

DOCTOR...
I HAVE A FEELING THAT HE'S GOING TO BE OKAY.


YOUKO!
JUN, DEAR...
.....

HUH...?


M...MOM?! WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I CAME ALL THE WAY FROM SENDAI.
YOU-KO...
SORRY, SHE TOLD ME NOT TO TELL YOU SHE WAS COMING.

I'M SORRY I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU... I JUST HAD TO SEE YOU.

YOUR FATHER'S HERE, TOO.
HEY!
AHAHA!
WOW!

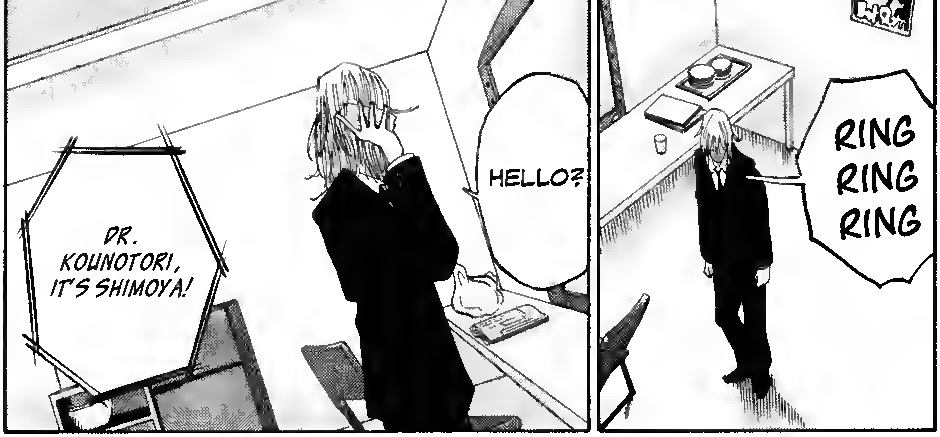
DAD'S HERE TOO...

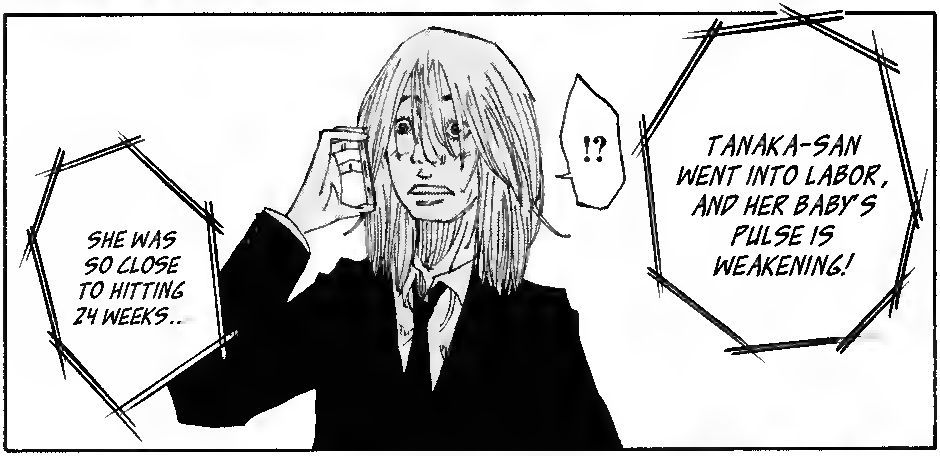
EVERY-THING'S FINE.
.....

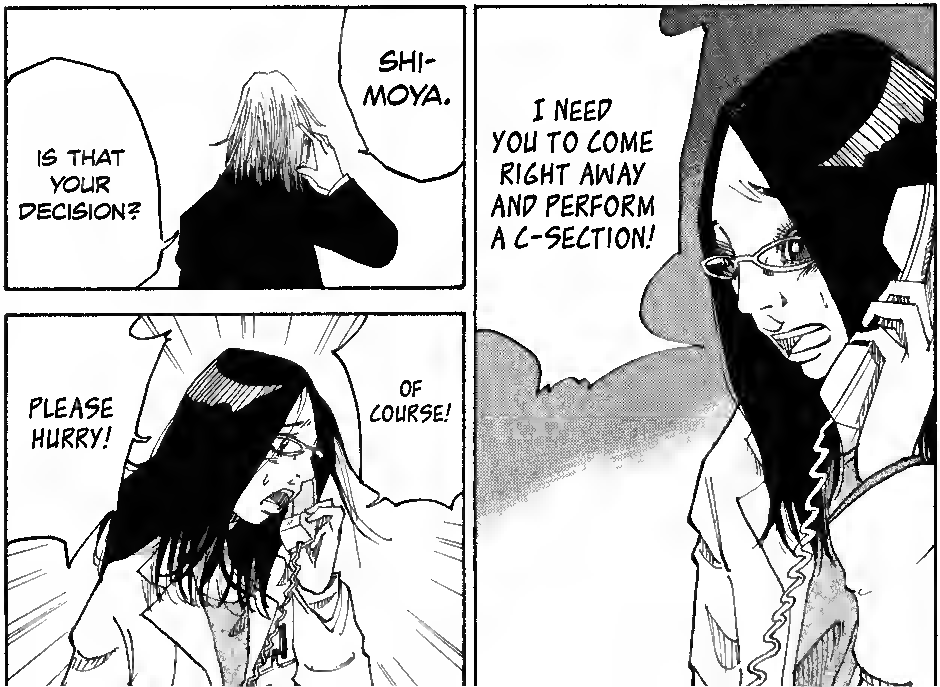
JEEZ, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THIS WAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF THIS.

EVERY-THING'S FINE...

THEN, ON THE THIRD DAY OF WEEK 23...
TONIGHT
BABY
TEN MINUTES TO SHOW-TIME!
THANKS.


RING RING RING
HELLO?
DR. KOUNOTORI, IT'S SHIMOYA!


!?
TANAKA-SAN WENT INTO LABOR, AND HER BABY'S PULSE IS WEAKENING!
SHE WAS SO CLOSE TO HITTING 24 WEEKS..


I NEED YOU TO COME RIGHT AWAY AND PERFORM A C-SECTION!
SHI-MOYA.
IS THAT YOUR DECISION?
OF COURSE!
PLEASE HURRY!

WE CAN'T DO A C-SECTION.
HUH...?

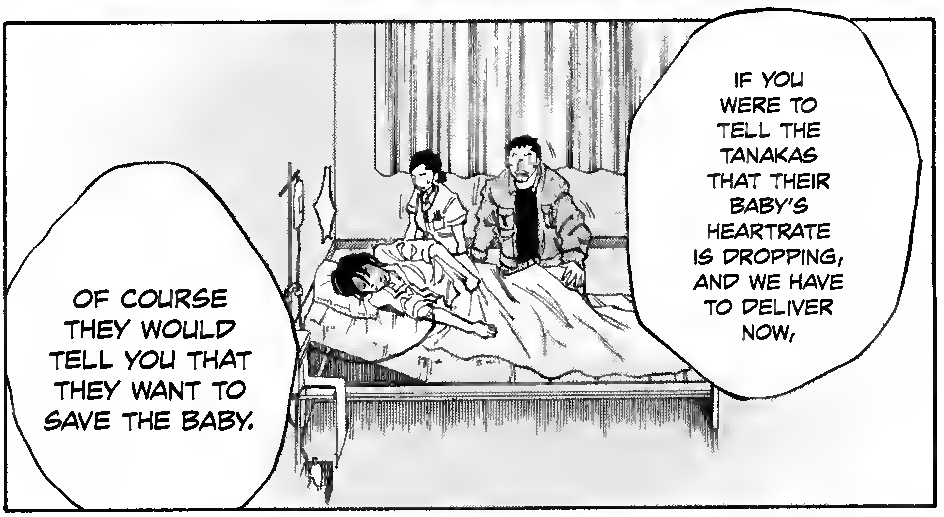
ザワ
IF WE DON'T PERFORM A C-SECTION NOW,
ザワ
THE BABY'S HEARTRATE IS SLOWING. DOCTOR! WE HAVE TO DELIVER THE BABY NOW!
ザワ

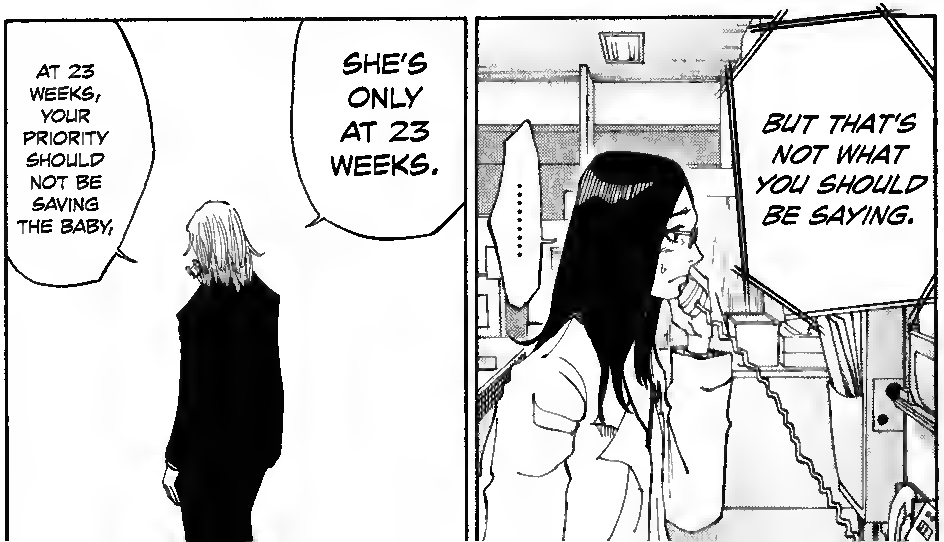
TANAKA-SAN'S BABY...
...WILL DIE!

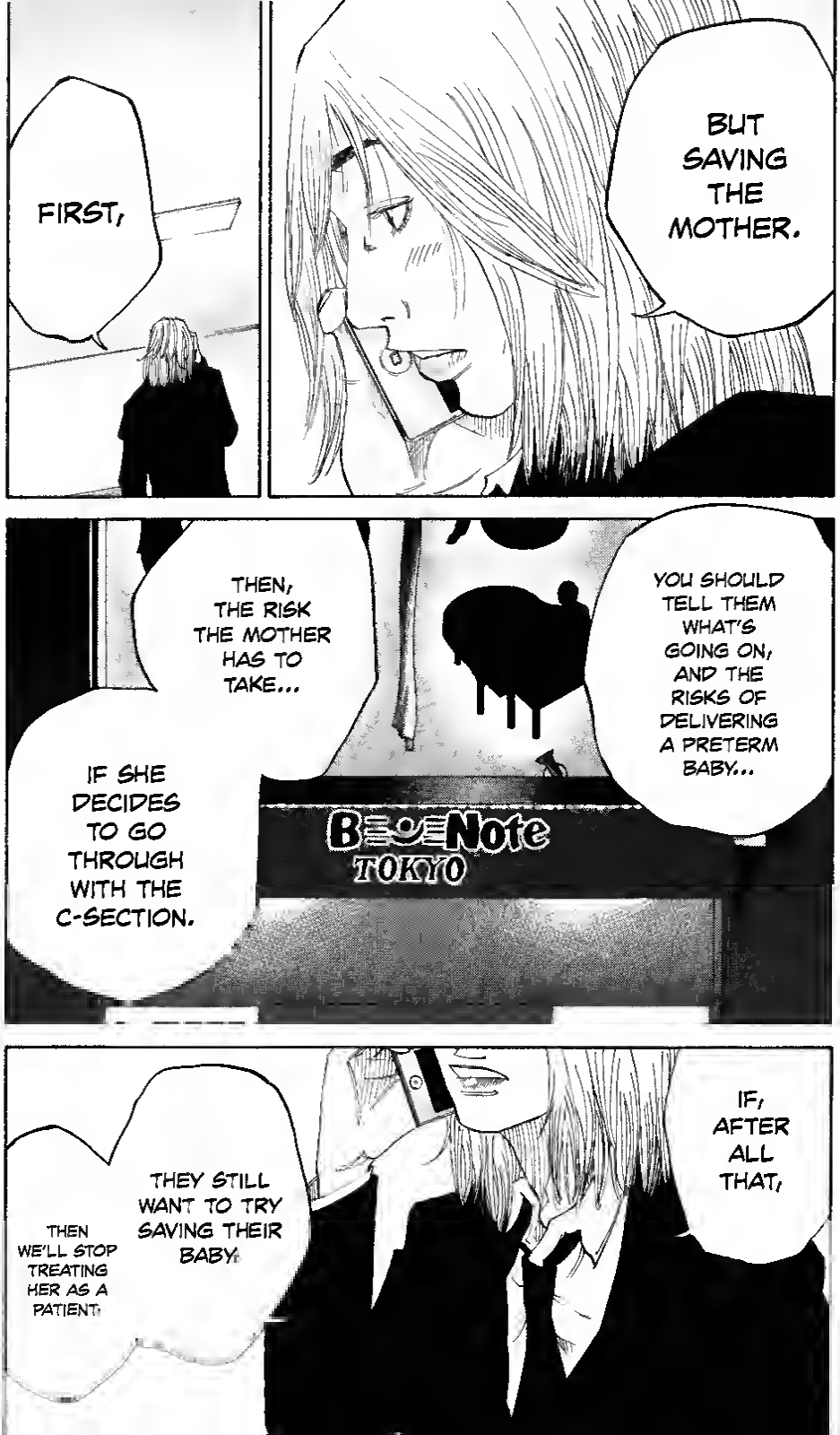
WE CAN'T DO A C-SECTION.

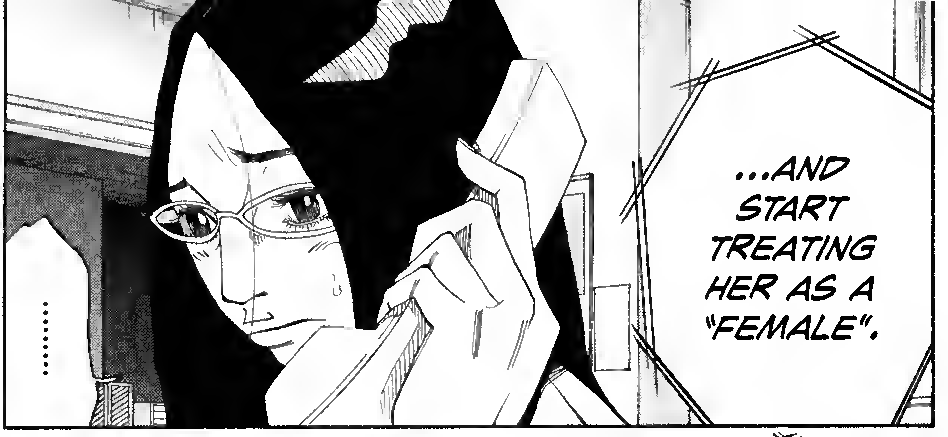
IF WE DON'T PERFORM A C-SECTION NOW,
ITS PULSE IS SLOWING, DOCTOR!
WE HAVE TO DELIVER THE BABY NOW,
HUH...?
TANAKA -SAN'S BABY WILL DIE!
.....
O... OF COURSE!
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE ONLY THINKING ABOUT SAVING THE BABY, RIGHT?
SHIMOYA...

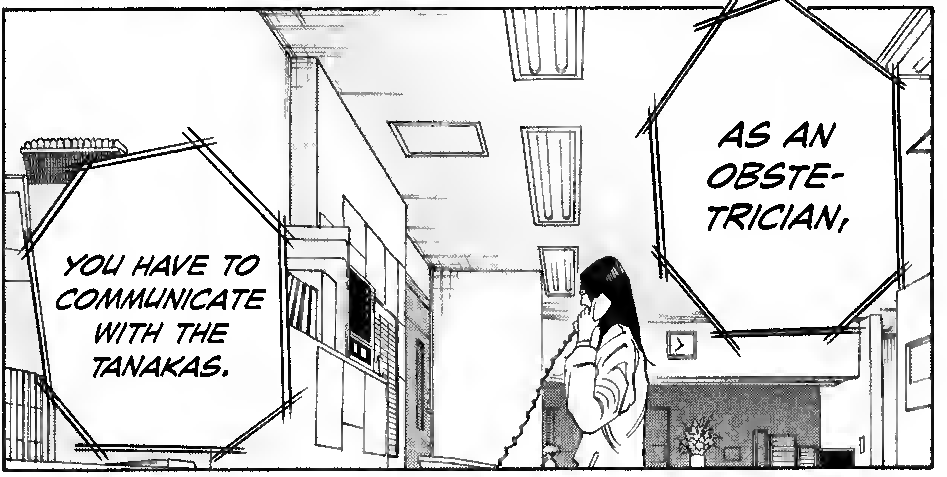
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE MOTHER?


IF YOU WERE TO TELL THE TANAKAS THAT THEIR BABY'S HEARTRATE IS DROPPING, AND WE HAVE TO DELIVER NOW,
OF COURSE THEY WOULD TELL YOU THAT THEY WANT TO SAVE THE BABY.


SHE'S ONLY AT 23 WEEKS.
AT 23 WEEKS, YOUR PRIORITY SHOULD NOT BE SAVING THE BABY,
.....
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU SHOULD BE SAYING.


FIRST,
BUT SAVING THE MOTHER.
THEN, THE RISK THE MOTHER HAS TO TAKE...
YOU SHOULD TELL THEM WHAT'S GOING ON, AND THE RISKS OF DELIVERING A PRETERM BABY...
IF SHE DECIDES TO GO THROUGH WITH THE C-SECTION.
B Note TOKYO
IF, AFTER ALL THAT,
THEY STILL WANT TO TRY SAVING THEIR BABY.
THEN WE'LL STOP TREATING HER AS A PATIENT.


.....
...AND START TREATING HER AS A "FEMALE".


YOU HAVE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE TANAKAS.
AS AN OBSTE-TRICIAN,

I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.

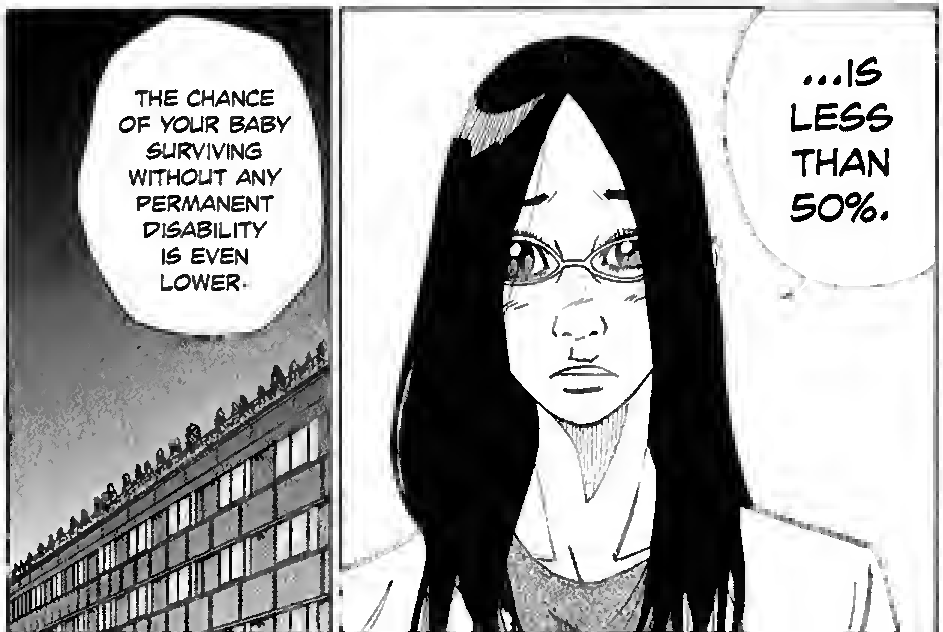
...YOUR WIFE IS GOING INTO LABOR.
陣痛室
Labor Room
WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER; WE HAVE TO DELIVER THE BABY NOW.
YOUR BABY'S PULSE IS SLOWING.

IF WE DELIVER THE BABY NORMALLY, WITHOUT A C-SECTION,
THE DELIVERY WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER...
...AND HARDER ON YOU AND THE BABY,
THE BABY WILL BE WITHOUT OXYGEN,
AND HAVE LASTING TRAUMA TO HIS BRAIN AND OTHER INTERNAL ORGANS.
.....

...POSSIBLY LEADING TO THE BABY'S DEATH DURING DELIVERY OR SOON AFTER.
THE NORMAL RISKS FOR A C-SECTION ARE...
HEAVY BLOOD LOSS, EMBOLISM, INFECTION, INJURY TO INTERNAL ORGANS, AND MORE.
...THEN,
GIVE ME A C-SECTION.
IN YOUR CASE, THE BABY IS VERY SMALL,
SO INSTEAD OF MAKING A HORIZONTAL INCISION, WE MUST MAKE A VERTICAL INCISION.
IF YOU GET PREGNANT AGAIN, YOU WILL BE AT FURTHER RISK...
FOR THINGS SUCH AS UTERINE RUPTURE AND PLACENTA ACCRETA.

AS YOU'VE JUST HEARD, THERE ARE MANY RISKS THAT BOTH YOU AND YOUR BABY MUST TAKE.
MAKING A VERTICAL INCISION HEIGHTENS THESE RISKS EVEN FURTHER.

...AND, AS OF RIGHT NOW, YOUR BABY'S CHANCE OF SURVIVAL...
.....


THE CHANCE OF YOUR BABY SURVIVING WITHOUT ANY PERMANENT DISABILITY IS EVEN LOWER.
...IS LESS THAN 50%.

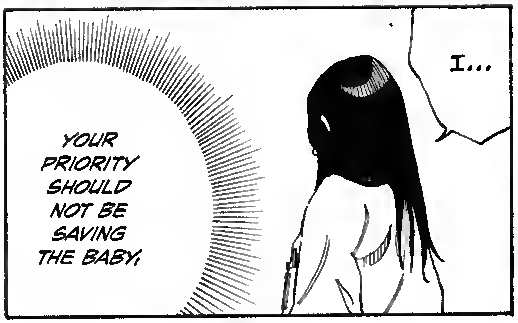
...D-
DR. SHIMOYA...
SO I CANNOT RECOM-MEND A C-SECTION.
AS A DOCTOR, IT'S MY DUTY TO PRIORITIZE YOUR LIFE OVER THE BABY'S,
WHAT DO YOU YOURSELF WANT TO DO?
.....

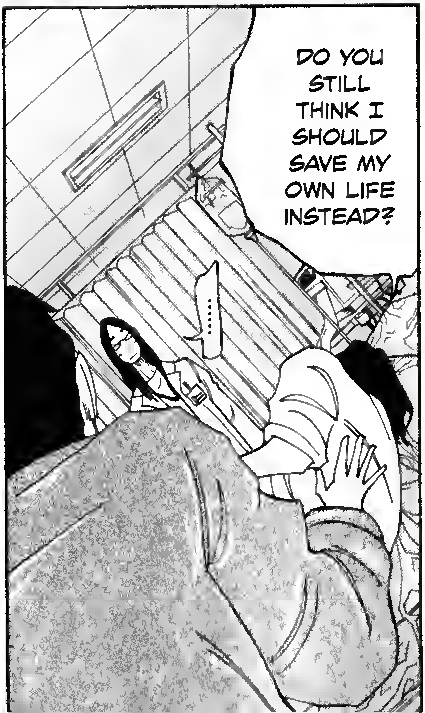
HUH...?
IT'S ALMOST TIME.
TONIGHT BABY

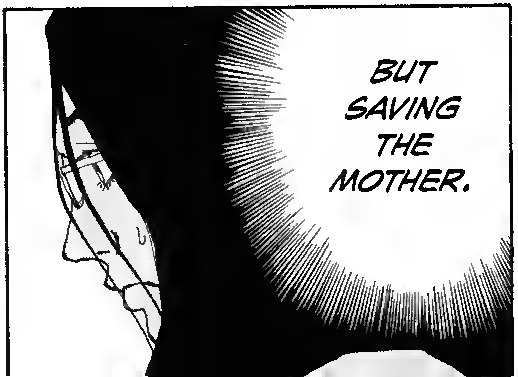
COULD YOU GET ME TO THE HOSPITAL, NOW?
SORRY, THERE'S AN ENCORE WAITING FOR ME.
HUH...

TOKYO
HUH?!

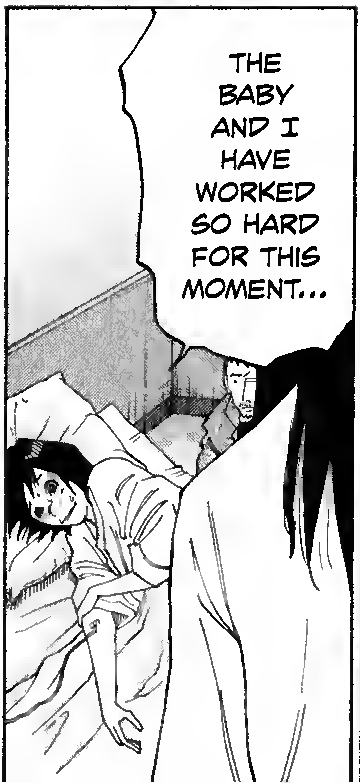
DR. SHIMOYA, WHAT DO YOU YOURSELF WANT TO DO?

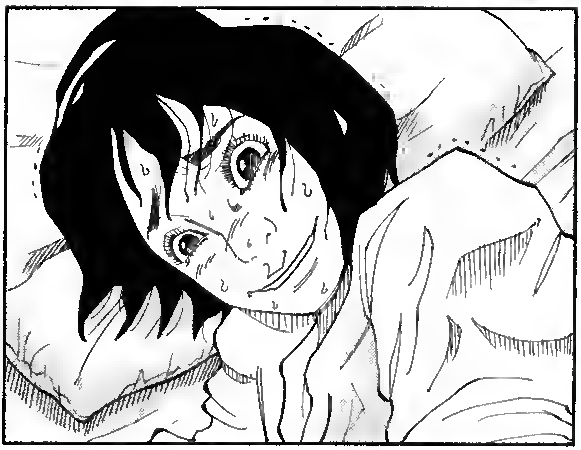

I...
YOUR PRIORITY SHOULD NOT BE SAVING THE BABY.

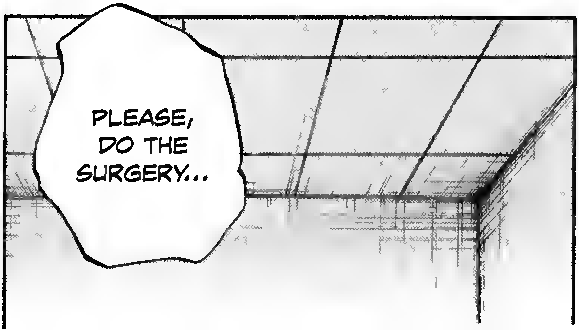

DO YOU STILL THINK I SHOULD SAVE MY OWN LIFE INSTEAD?
.....


BUT SAVING THE MOTHER.

I WANT TO SAVE BOTH OF YOU...

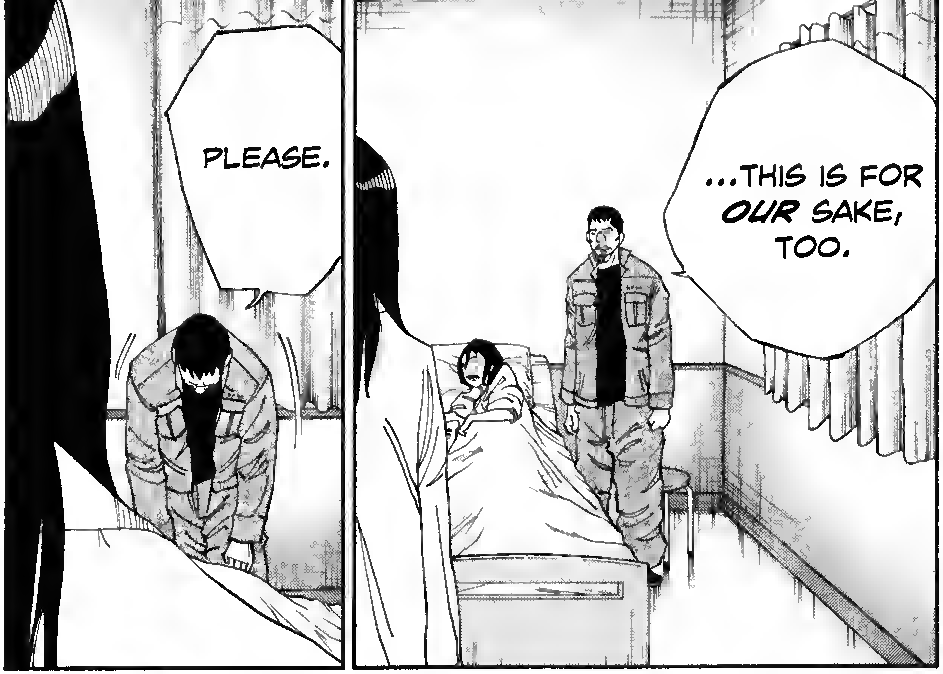

THE BABY AND I HAVE WORKED SO HARD FOR THIS MOMENT...




PLEASE, DO THE SURGERY...

I CAN'T SAVE MYSELF,
AND LET MY BABY DIE...
.....
I... I JUST CAN'T DO IT.
IF I DID, THEN I WOULD WONDER TO MYSELF EVERY DAY,
"MAYBE MY BABY WOULD HAVE LIVED IF I'D JUST HAD THE C-SECTION..."
I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN!

WE'RE STUPID.
I WANT HER TO GET A C-SECTION, TOO.
WE DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER.
WE SAID WE'D DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SAVE OUR BABY!
BUT WE'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME WORRYING ABOUT THIS.


PLEASE.
...THIS IS FOR OUR SAKE, TOO.

PLEASE SAVE OUR BABY...

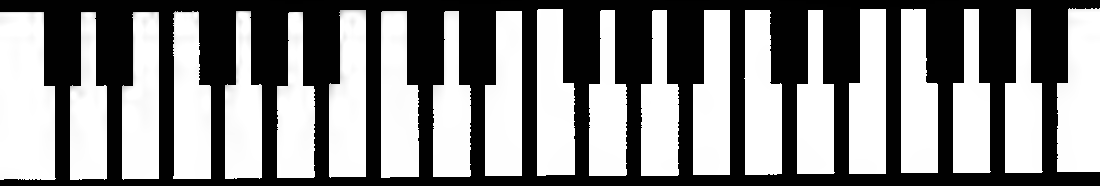
WE'RE PERFORMING AN EMERGENCY C-SECTION!
CALL DR. KOUNOTORI TO THE OPERATING ROOM...
CONTACT THE NICU ASAP!
AS SOON AS HE GETS HERE!

I'M ALREADY HERE.
!?
...DR. KOUNO-TORI.
THANK GOD...
H-HEY!
...THE HARD PART...

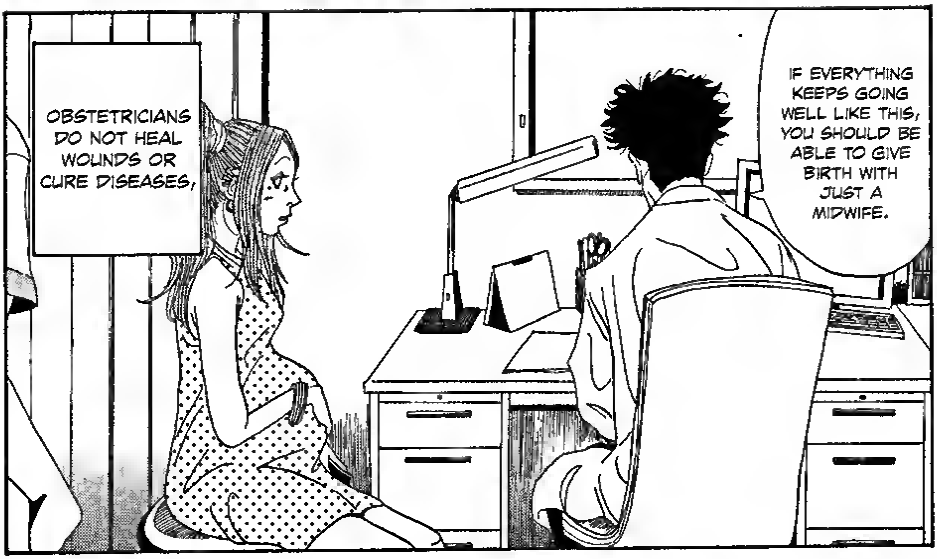
手術
...STARTS NOW.
ALL RIGHT.
.....
LET'S GET STARTED.

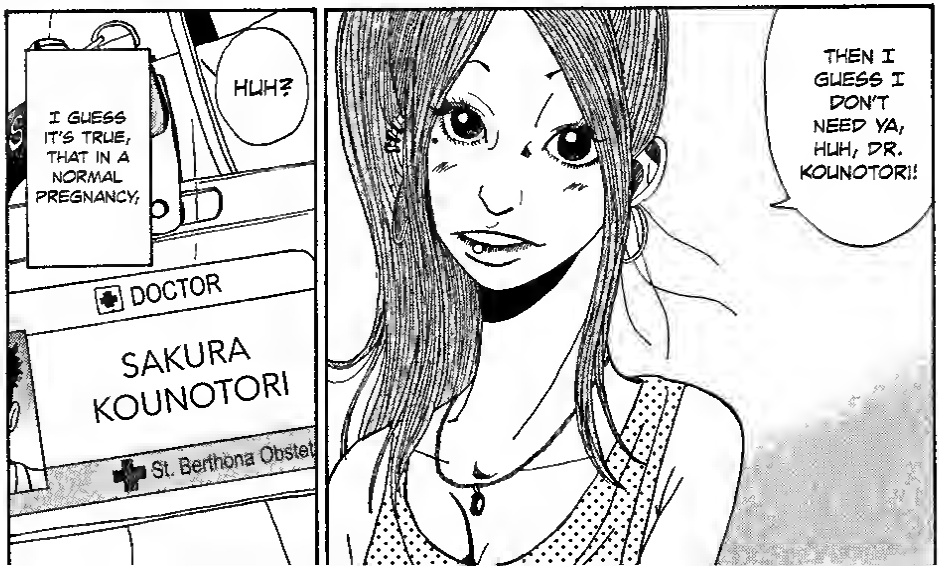
BONUS TRACK

ENCORE | ON CALL

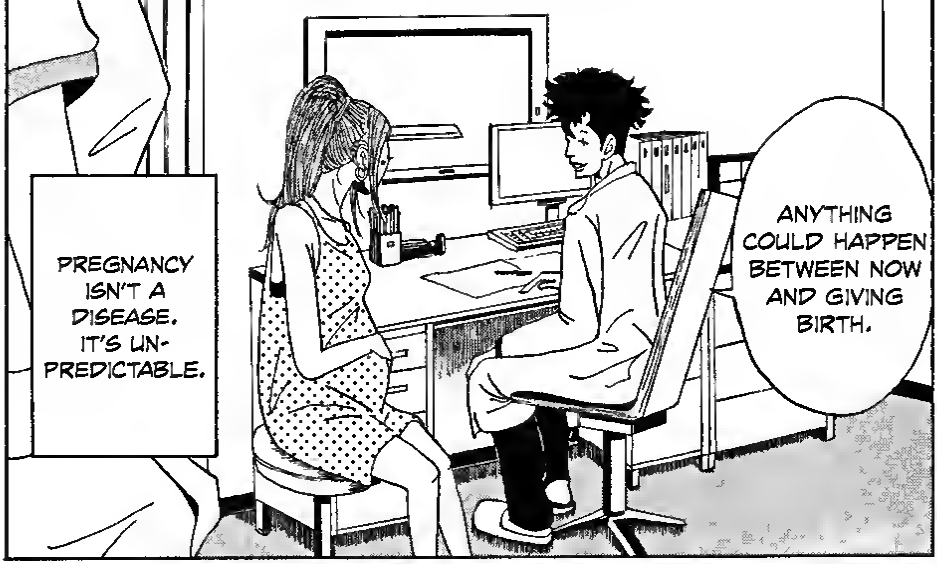


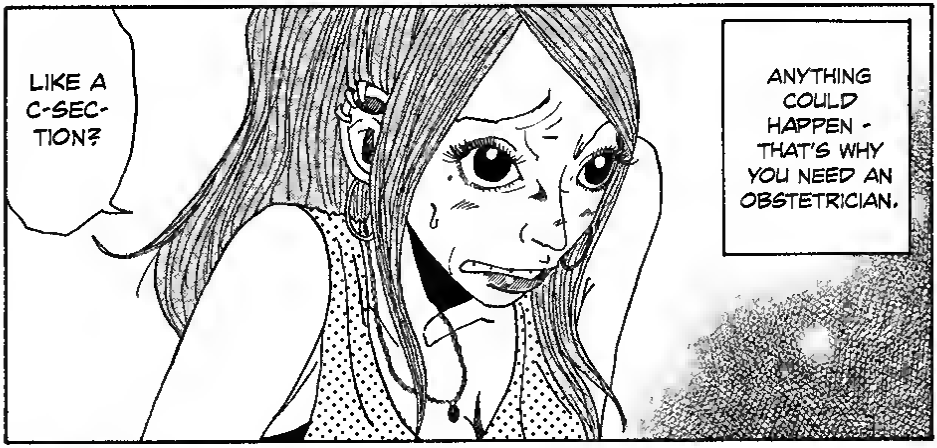
INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER NORMAL PREGNANCIES.
EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD, MAEDA-SAN.
PREGNANCY IS NOT AN ILLNESS.
20 fps


OBSTETRICIANS DO NOT HEAL WOUNDS OR CURE DISEASES,
IF EVERYTHING KEEPS GOING WELL LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE BIRTH WITH JUST A MIDWIFE.

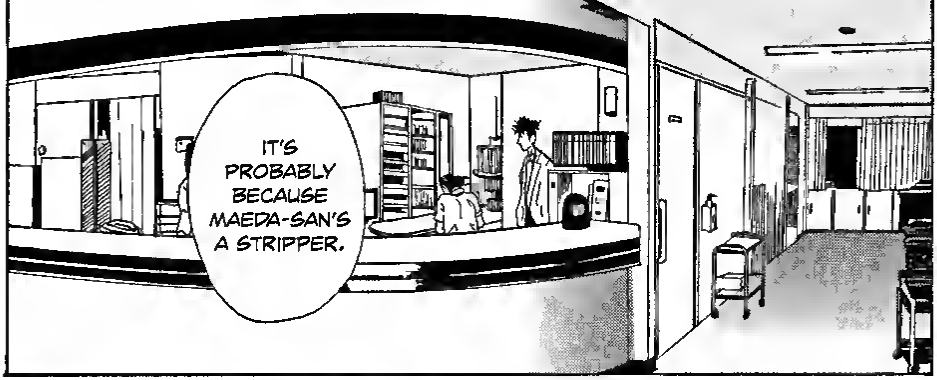

I GUESS IT'S TRUE, THAT IN A NORMAL PREGNANCY,
HUH?
DOCTOR
SAKURA KOUNOTORI
St. Berthona Obstet
THEN I GUESS I DON'T NEED YA, HUH, DR. KOUNOTORI!

A MOTHER DOESN'T NEED AN OBSTETRICIAN.
WELL, YES... BUT I'M HERE JUST IN CASE.


PREGNANCY ISN'T A DISEASE. IT'S UN-PREDICTABLE.
ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN BETWEEN NOW AND GIVING BIRTH.


LIKE A C-SEC-TION?
ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN - THAT'S WHY YOU NEED AN OBSTETRICIAN.

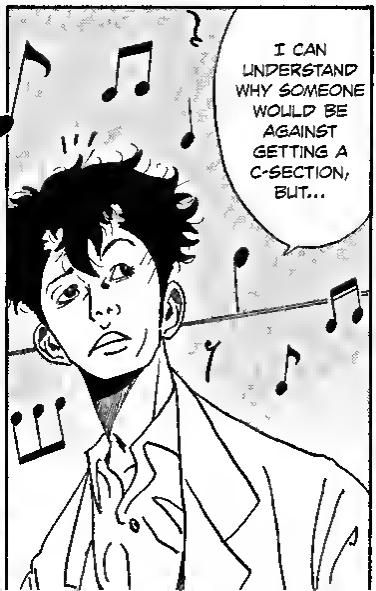
I AIN'T LETTIN' YA CUT ME OPEN!
HUH?!
IF YOU NEED ONE, THEN YES.


IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE MAEDA-SAN'S A STRIPPER.

HER BODY IS HER MONEY MAKER.
.....

A... A STRIP-PER?!
THOSE STILL EXIST?

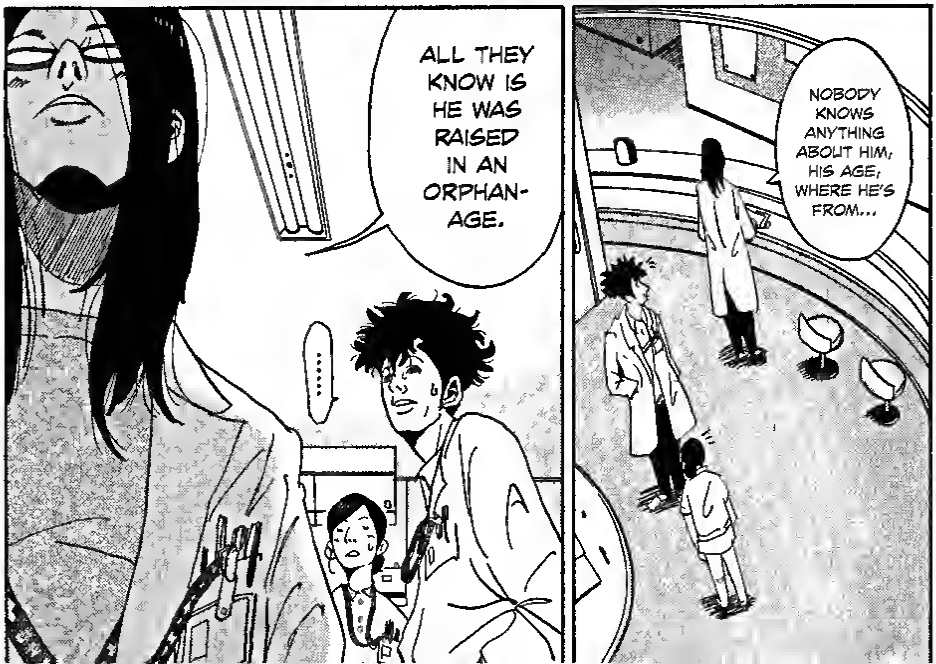
HUH? WAIT, IS THIS...

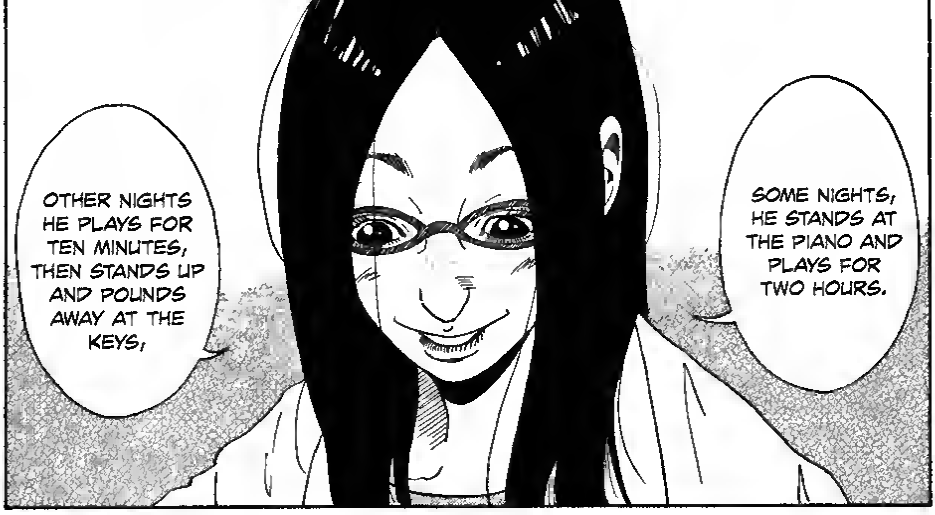

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY SOMEONE WOULD BE AGAINST GETTING A C-SECTION, BUT...

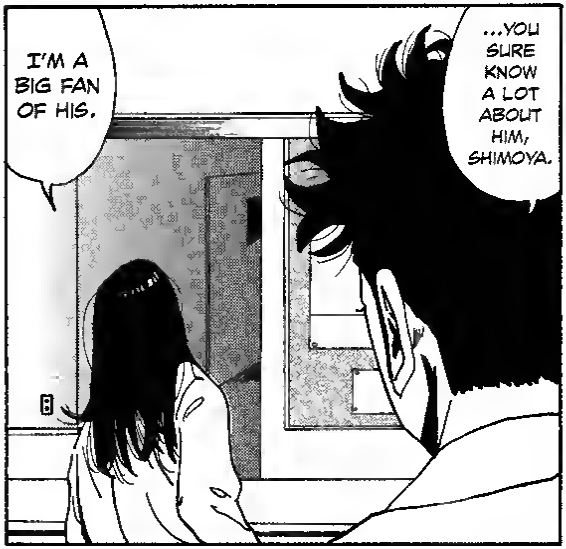
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO DAMAGE IT.
CLICK
baby

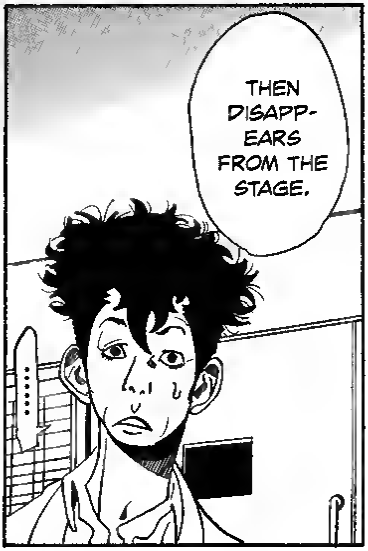
MAEDA-SAN SAID, QUOTE, "ALL YA'LL BETTER PLAY THIS FOR ME WHEN I'M SQUEEZIN' HIM OUT!"
SHE WANTS US TO START THE CD WHEN HER CONTRACTIONS START.

baby
Hello my Love
DO YOU KNOW THIS ARTIST?
HIS NAME'S "BABY". HE'S A PRETTY FAMOUS PIANIST I HEAR.


ALL THEY KNOW IS HE WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHANAGE.
.....
NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, HIS AGE, WHERE HE'S FROM...


OTHER NIGHTS HE PLAYS FOR TEN MINUTES, THEN STANDS UP AND POUNDS AWAY AT THE KEYS,
SOME NIGHTS, HE STANDS AT THE PIANO AND PLAYS FOR TWO HOURS.


I'M A BIG FAN OF HIS.
...YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIM, SHIMOYA.

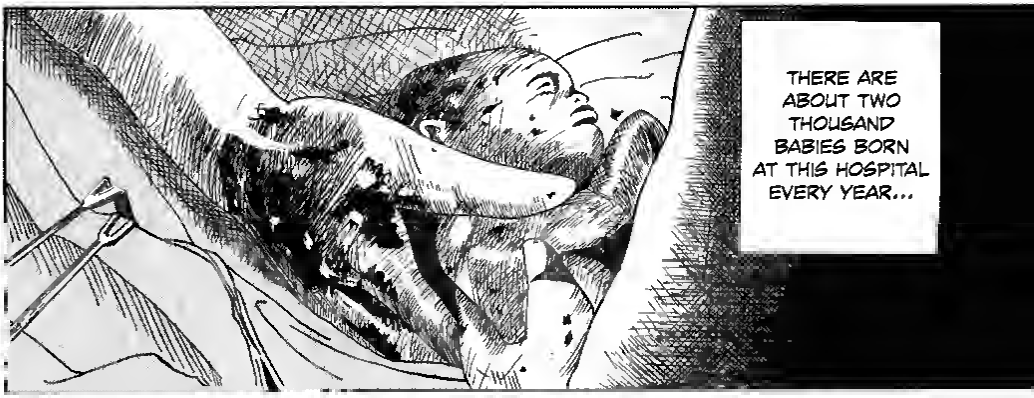

THEN DISAPP-EARS FROM THE STAGE.

RING RING RING

RING RING RING

CODE BLUE!
PLACENTAL ABLUTION AT 28 WEEK'S!
ESTI-MATED FETAL WEIGHT: 1200 GRAMS!
PREGNANCY IS NOT AN ILLNESS.
GIVE THE NICU ANOTHER CALL!
SHE'S BLEEDING HEAVILY!
TAKE HER TO THE OPERATING ROOM.

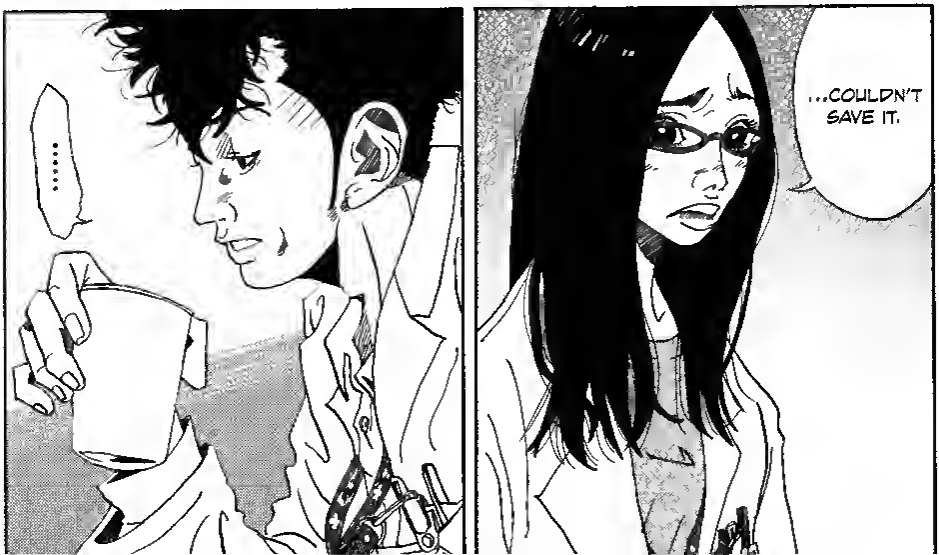
BELIEVE EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
BECAUSE IT IS NOT AN ILLNESS, THE PATIENT AND THEIR FAMILY


THERE ARE ABOUT TWO THOUSAND BABIES BORN AT THIS HOSPITAL EVERY YEAR...

AND IN ABOUT THREE HUNDRED OF THOSE CASES, THE MOTHER OR THE BABY'S LIFE IS IN DANGER.
IT'S SMALLER THAN I EXPEC-TED...

THERE ARE MANY TIMES WHEN WE CAN SAVE THOSE PRECIOUS LITTLE LIVES...

THEY...


.....
...COULDN'T SAVE IT.

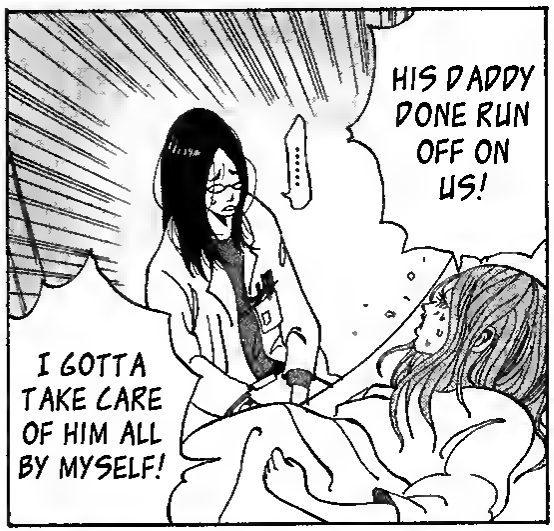
AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE CAN'T.
I SEE.
PREG-NANCY...
IS NOT 100% SAFE.

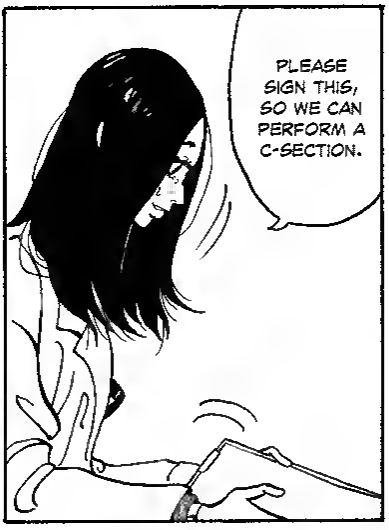
St. Berthona Obstet
...HELLO, DR. KOUNO-TORI?

GH...
MAEDA-SAN'S CONTRACTIONS HAVE STARTED, BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM...
IT'S SHIMO-YA.

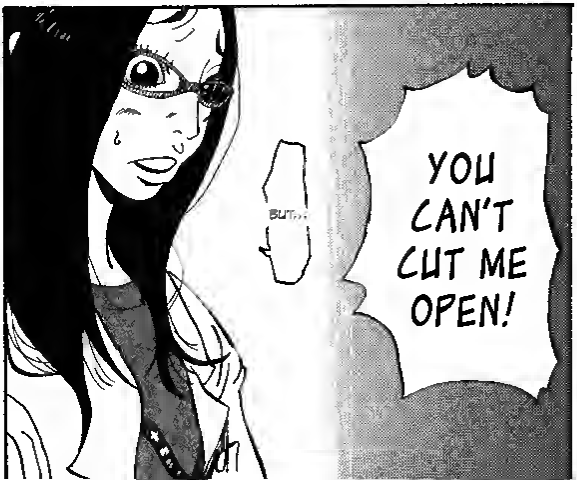
PLEASE COME RIGHT AWAY.
...YES, SHE'LL NEED A C-SEC-TION.
HER BABY IS BREECH.

.....
AND YOUR CERVIX HAS STARTED TO DILATE...
THE ULTRASOUND SHOWED THAT THE UMBILICAL CORD IS VERY CLOSE TO YOUR CERVIX. IF YOUR WATER BREAKS NOW, IT COULD CAUSE COMPLICATIONS.

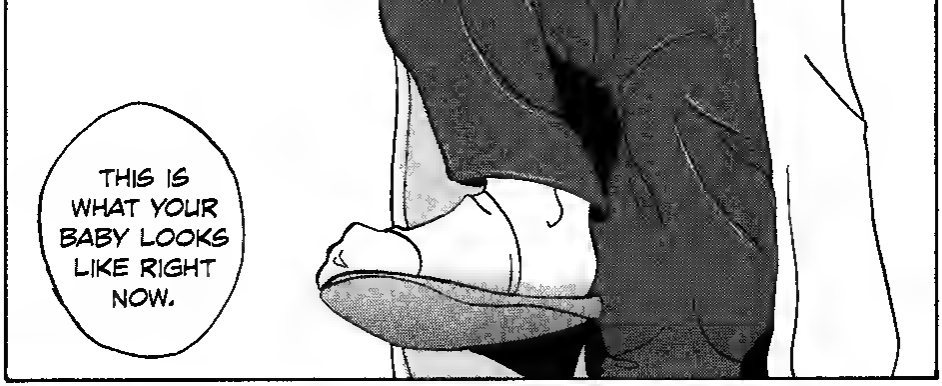

.....
HIS DADDY DONE RUN OFF ON US!
I GOTTA TAKE CARE OF HIM ALL BY MYSELF!

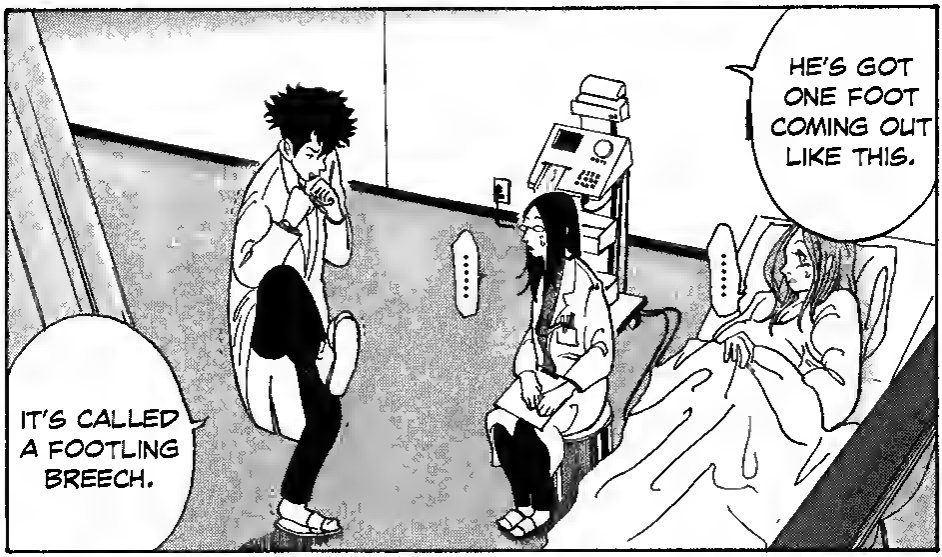

PLEASE SIGN THIS, SO WE CAN PERFORM A C-SECTION.

WE HAVE TO.


BUT...
YOU CAN'T CUT ME OPEN!

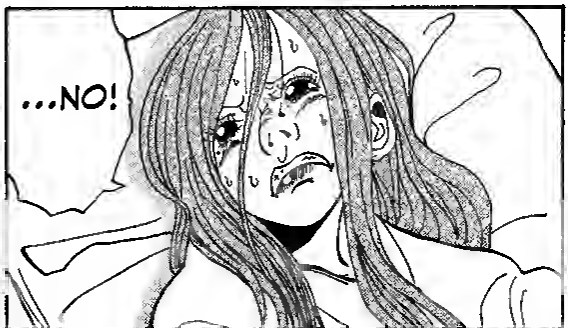
DR. KOUNO-TORI!
MAEDA-SAN,
PLEASE SIGN THE FORM.


THIS IS WHAT YOUR BABY LOOKS LIKE RIGHT NOW.

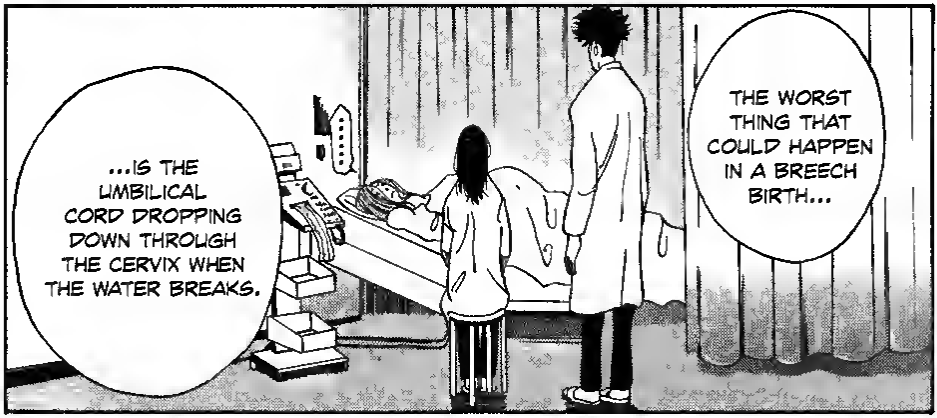

HE'S GOT ONE FOOT COMING OUT LIKE THIS.
.....
.....
IT'S CALLED A FOOTLING BREECH.

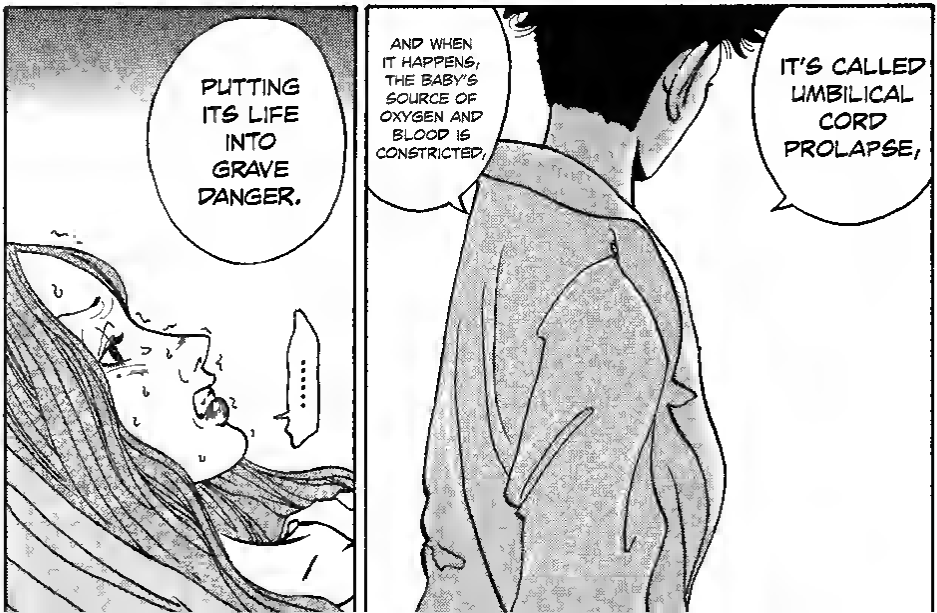
I HAVE TO STRIP! I HAVE TO MAKE MONEY SO I CAN RAISE MY BABY! I CAN'T LET YOU CUT ON ME!

HE'S STUCK. YOU CAN'T PUSH HIM OUT.


...NO!

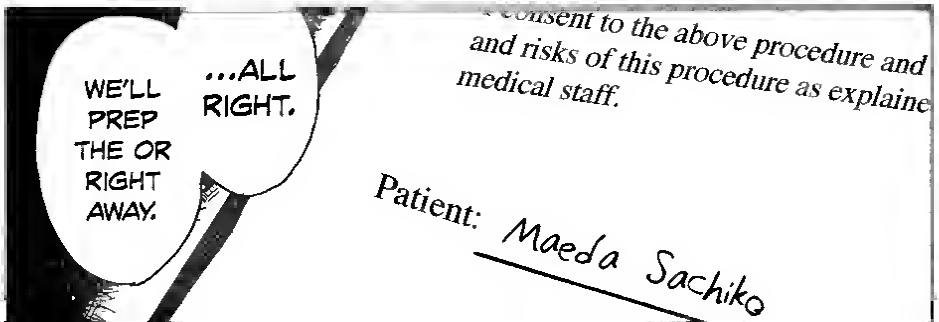
EVEN IF IT MEANS PUTTING YOUR BABY'S LIFE IN DANGER?


THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN IN A BREECH BIRTH...
...IS THE UMBILICAL CORD DROPPING DOWN THROUGH THE CERVIX WHEN THE WATER BREAKS.

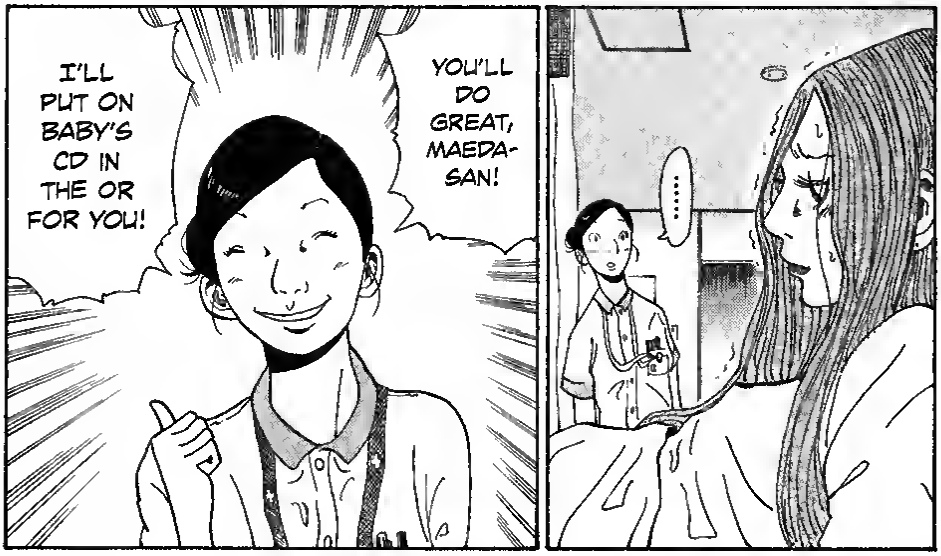

IT'S CALLED UMBILICAL CORD PROLAPSE,
AND WHEN IT HAPPENS, THE BABY'S SOURCE OF OXYGEN AND BLOOD IS CONSTRICTED.
PUTTING ITS LIFE INTO GRAVE DANGER.
.....

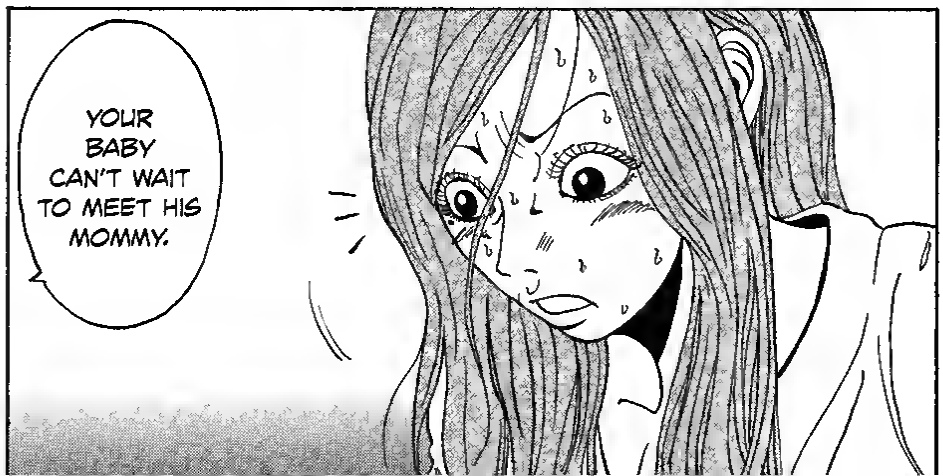
MAEDA-SAN.
YOU HAVE TO GIVE BIRTH TO A HEALTHY BABY.

.....
ELSE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RAISE IT.

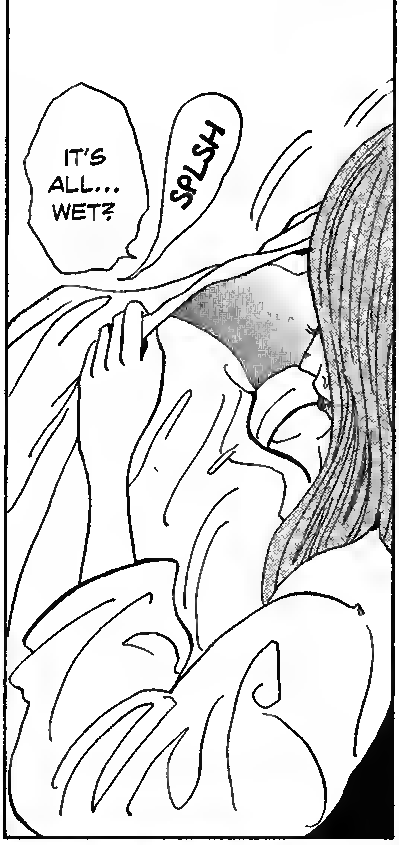

...ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL PREP THE OR RIGHT AWAY.
consent to the above procedure and
and risks of this procedure as explaine
medical staff.
Patient: Maeda Sachiko

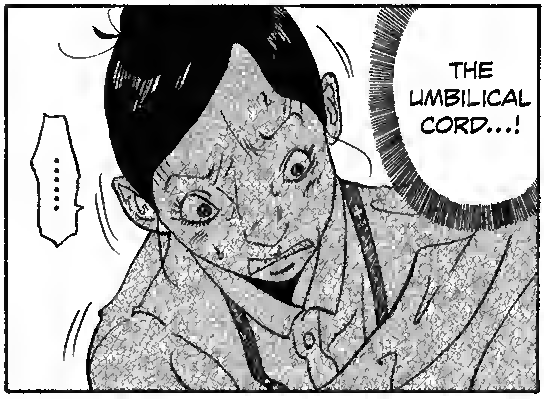
DR. KOUNO-TORI'S A GREAT DOCTOR.
IT'LL BE AL-RIGHT.


I'LL PUT ON BABY'S CD IN THE OR FOR YOU!
YOU'LL DO GREAT, MAEDA-SAN!
.....

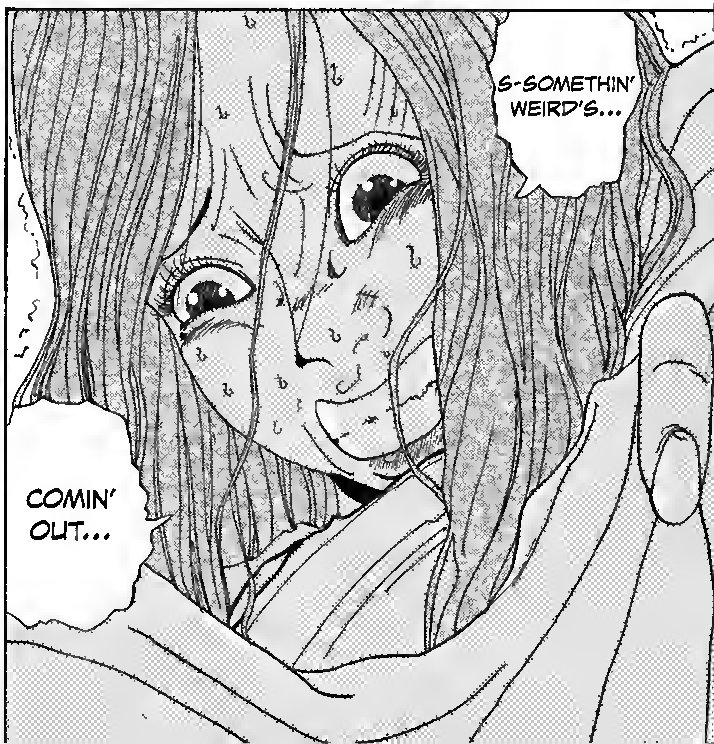

YOUR BABY CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIS MOMMY.

HUH?


IT'S ALL... WET?
SPLSH

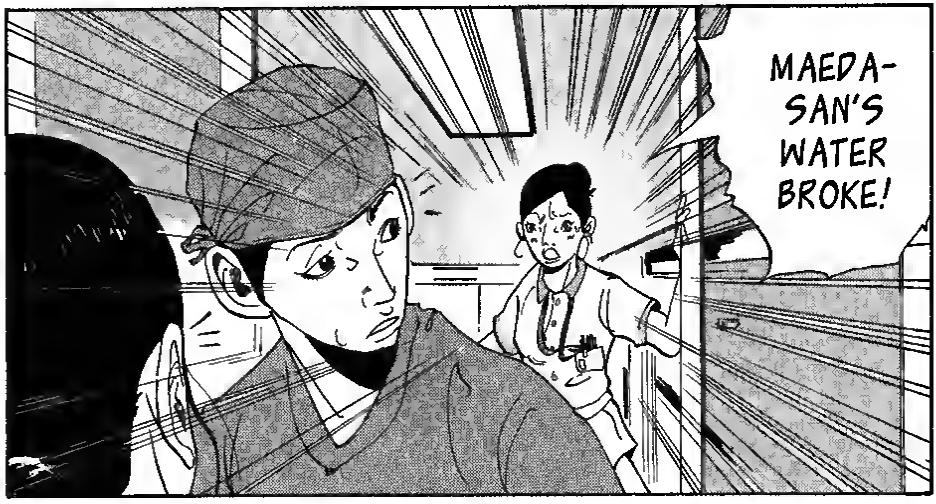

.....
THE UMBILICAL CORD...!

I... I'LL CALL THE DOCTOR!


S-SOMETHIN' WEIRD'S...
COMIN' OUT...

MAEDA-SAN...
SHI-MOYA,
IF YOU WERE A STRIPPER, AND WERE GIVING BIRTH,
...SHE REALLY WANTED TO HAVE A NATURAL BIRTH.
BUT YOUR BABY WAS BREECH... WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
.....
I'D GET THE C-SECTION.

WE SHOULD PRIORITIZE THE MOTHER AND BABY'S LIVES ABOVE ALL.
DOC-TOR!
THEN...
THAT'S WHAT MAEDA-SAN SHOULD DO.


MAEDA-SAN'S WATER BROKE!

AND...

HER UMBILICAL CORD HAS PROLAPSED!
!?
WH... WHAT?!
WHAT'S HAPP-ENIN'?!
CALL THE NICU!
FETAL PULSE IS DROPPING!
YOUR UMBILICAL CORD PROLAP-SED.
...AND RIGHT NOW,

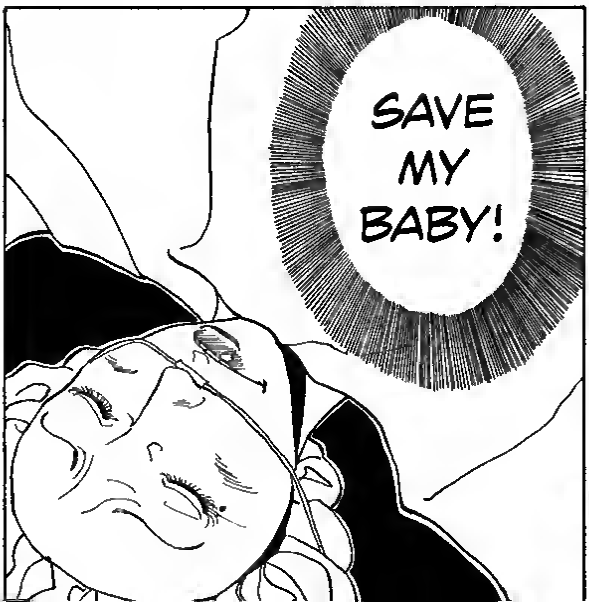
NO...!
IT'S STRANG-LING YOUR BABY.
手術中
DOCTOR, PLEASE SAVE MY BABY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
ビクッ
EEK!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU GOTTA RIP THE WHOLE THING OPEN!

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

DON'T WORRY.
……!

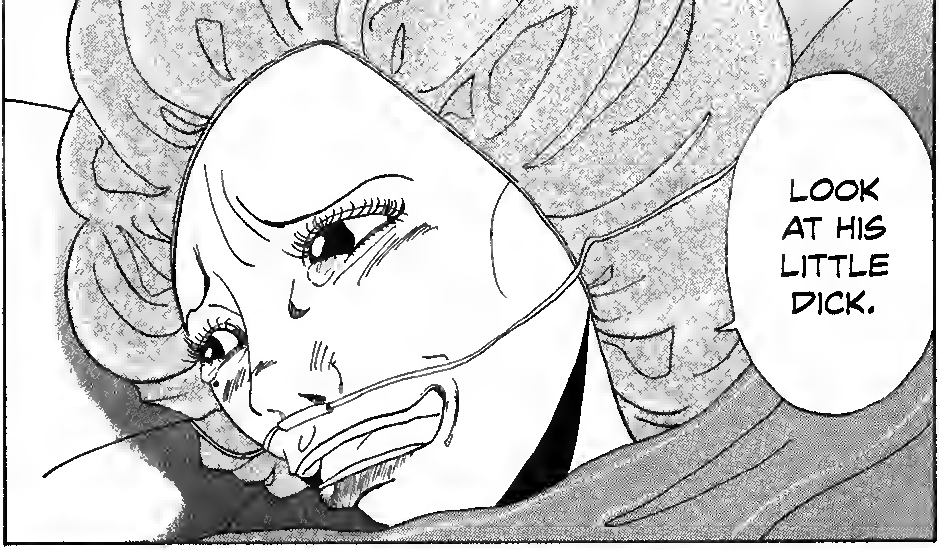
手術中
...LET'S BEGIN.

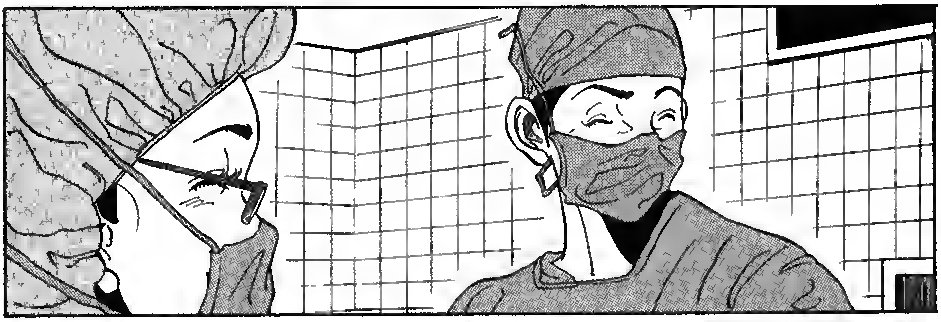
MY BODY'S TINGLIN' FROM THE ANESTHESIA.
SORRY, DOCTOR...
I'M REALLY SORRY.

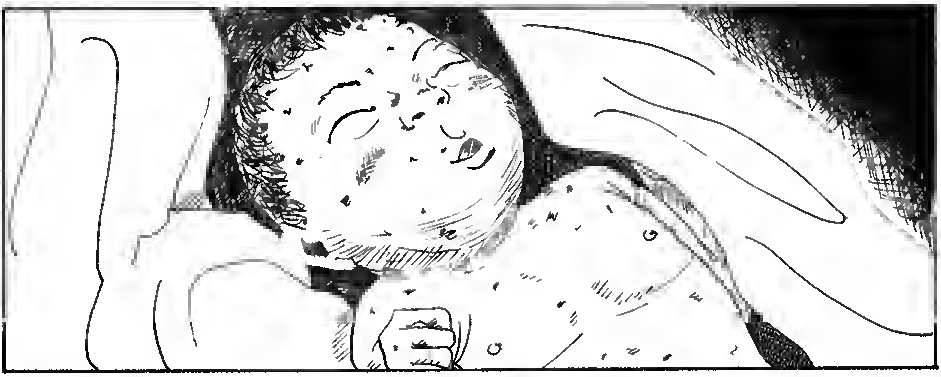

SAVE MY BABY!

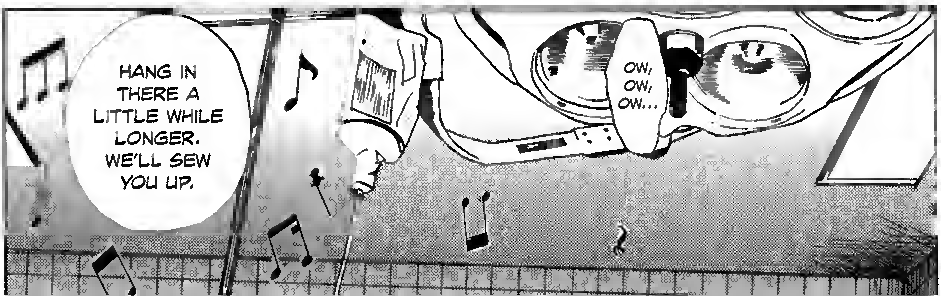
PLEASE, GOD...

WAAH!
WAAH!
WAAH!
WAAH!
WAAH!
WAAH!
.....
OW!
KICK
AHA!
IT'S A BOY.
CON-GRATU-LATIONS.


LOOK AT HIS LITTLE DICK.

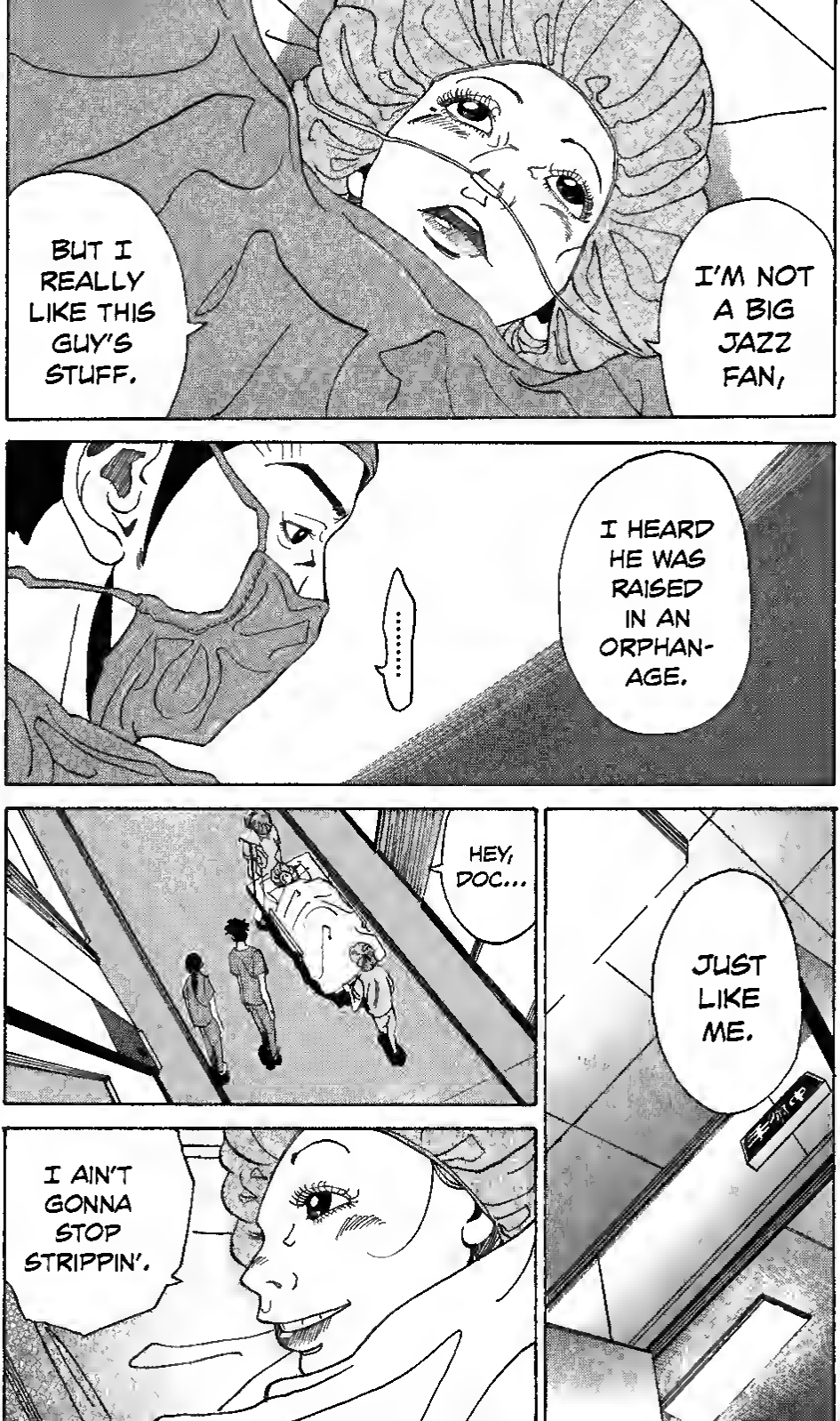


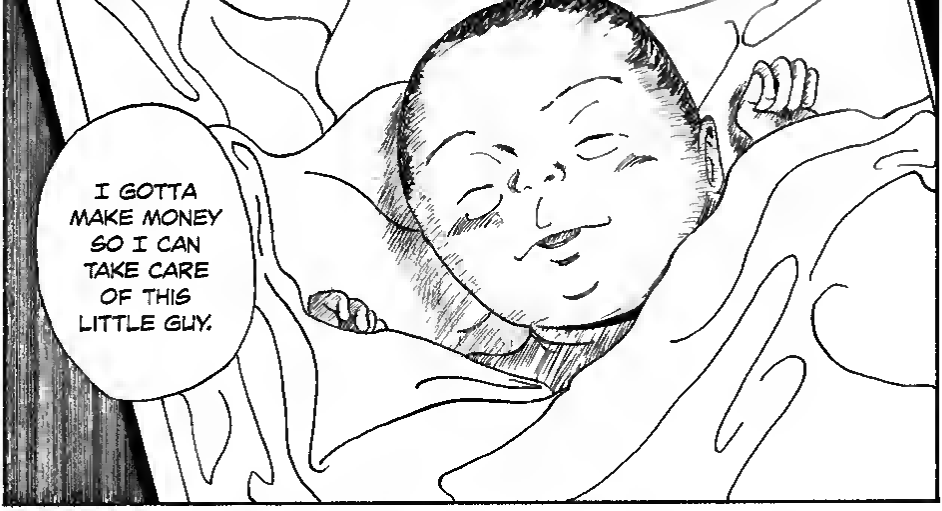


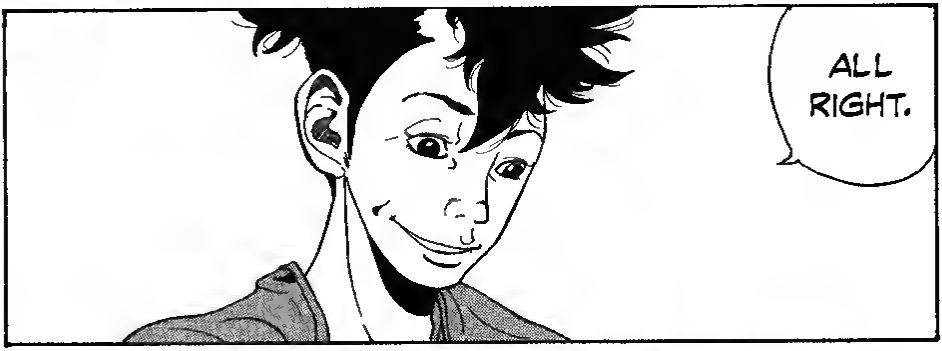

HANG IN THERE A LITTLE WHILE LONGER. WE'LL SEW YOU UP.
OW, OW, OW...

YOU PLAYED THE CD FOR ME.
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE 'TIL NOW.

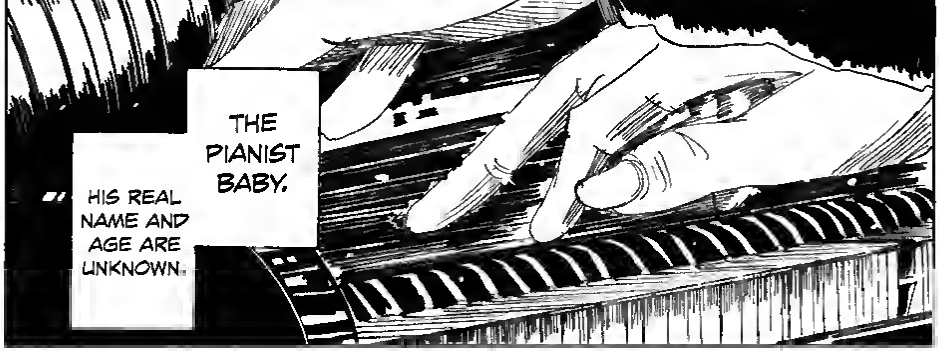
I DANCE TO THIS GUY'S MUSIC.
YOU KNOW, DOC,


I'M NOT A BIG JAZZ FAN,
BUT I REALLY LIKE THIS GUY'S STUFF.
I HEARD HE WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHAN-AGE.
.....
HEY, DOC...
JUST LIKE ME.
I AIN'T GONNA STOP STRIPPIN'.

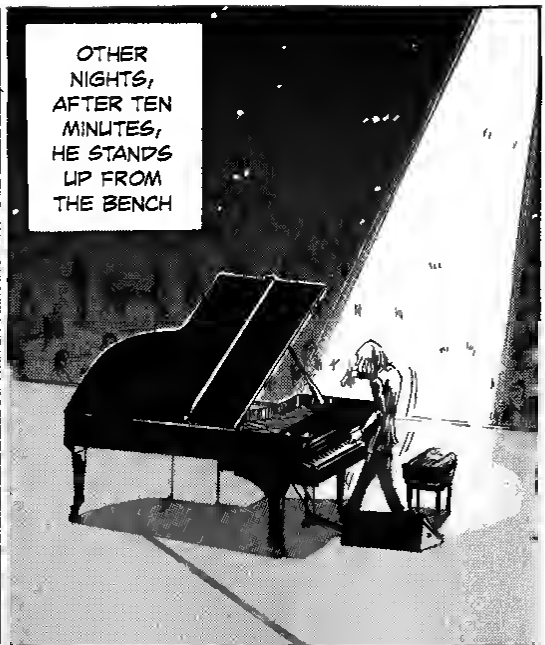

I GOTTA MAKE MONEY SO I CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS LITTLE GUY.

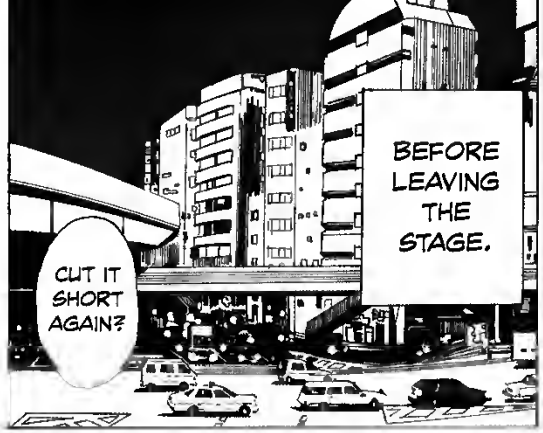

ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, DOC... I MEAN IT.

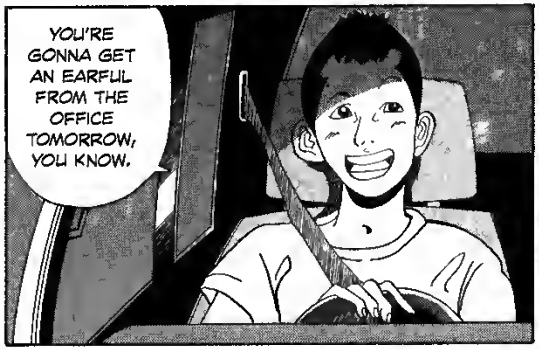

THE PIANIST BABY.
HIS REAL NAME AND AGE ARE UNKNOWN.

SOME NIGHTS HE PLAYS THE PIANO FOR OVER TWO HOURS.
VMMM VMMM VMMM


OTHER NIGHTS, AFTER TEN MINUTES, HE STANDS UP FROM THE BENCH


BEFORE LEAVING THE STAGE.
CUT IT SHORT AGAIN?

YEAH.


YOU'RE GONNA GET AN EARFUL FROM THE OFFICE TOMORROW, YOU KNOW.

BUT HIS FANS DON'T KNOW...
SORRY. BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS...
RUB RUB

AND PLAYS FURIOUSLY

YOU CAN'T TELL A BABY TO HOLD OFF ON BEING BORN.
THAT HIS SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE IS FOR AN ENCORE AT THE HOSPITAL.

HELLO, THIS IS KOUNO-TORI.
...ALRIGHT, I'LL BE THERE SOON.

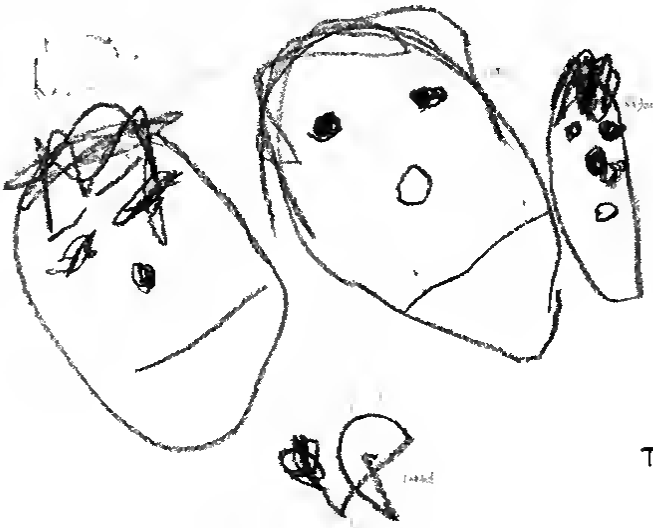
Kounotori: The Stork

presented in English by Futari wa Pretty Anon

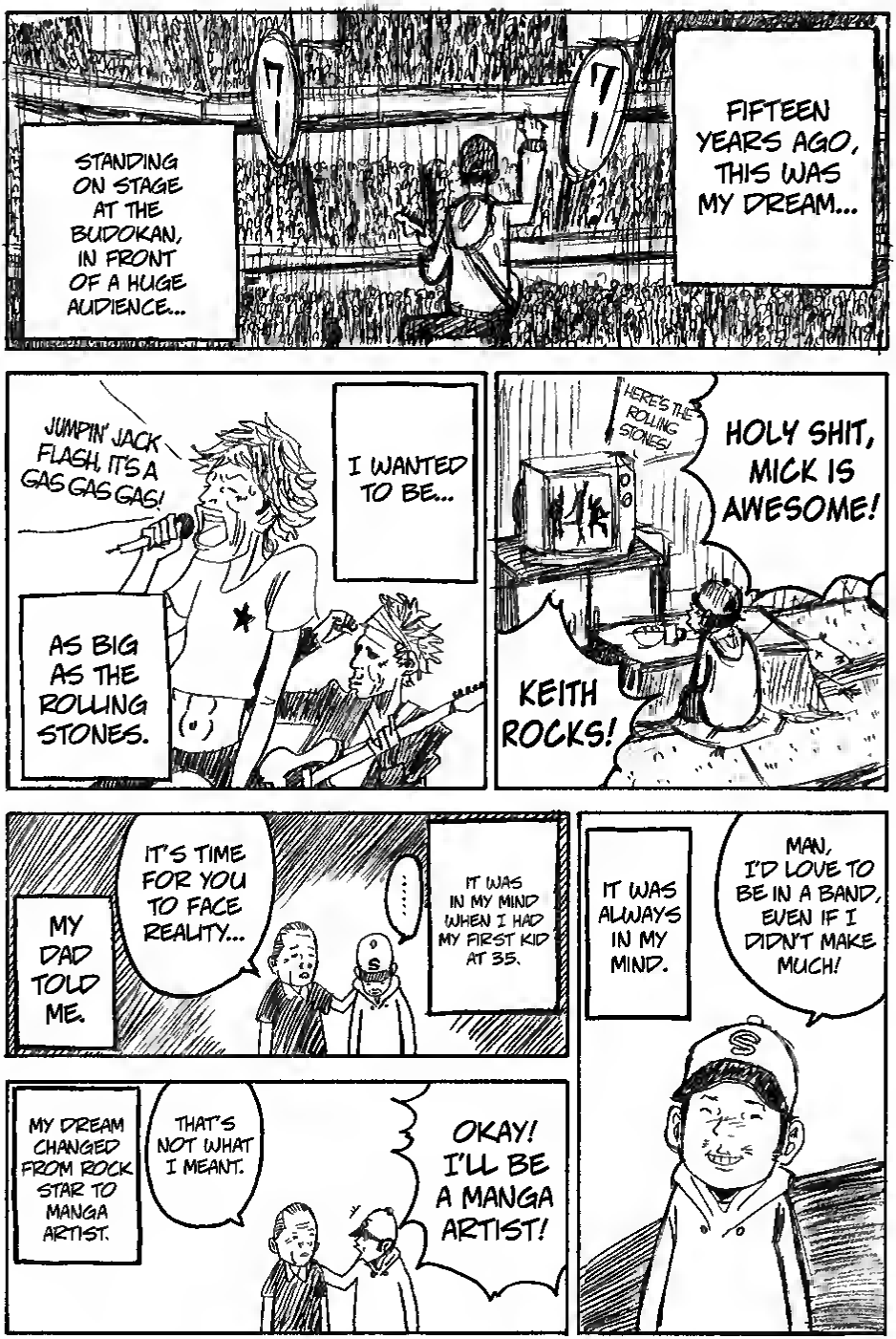
Translation & Typesetting by AnonBlack
Cleaning & Redraws by Arthuril

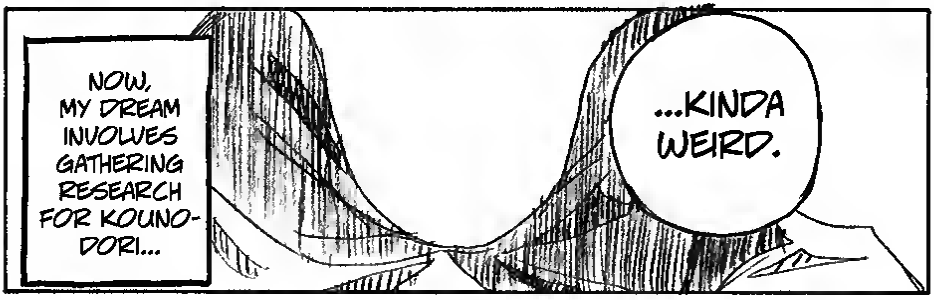
HQ direct download available on our website
prettyanonymo.us #prettyanon@irc.rizon.net

His first picture of our family.
From left to right: Mom, Tenta, and me...



TENTA, AGE 5


STANDING ON STAGE AT THE BUDOKAN, IN FRONT OF A HUGE AUDIENCE...
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THIS WAS MY DREAM...
JUMPIN' JACK FLASH, IT'S A GAS GAS GAS!
I WANTED TO BE...
AS BIG AS THE ROLLING STONES.
HERE'S THE ROLLING STONES!
HOLY SHIT, MICK IS AWESOME!
KEITH ROCKS!
MY DAD TOLD ME.
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO FACE REALITY...
.....
IT WAS IN MY MIND WHEN I HAD MY FIRST KID AT 35.
IT WAS ALWAYS IN MY MIND.
MAN, I'D LOVE TO BE IN A BAND, EVEN IF I DIDN'T MAKE MUCH!
MY DREAM CHANGED FROM ROCK STAR TO MANGA ARTIST.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
OKAY! I'LL BE A MANGA ARTIST!

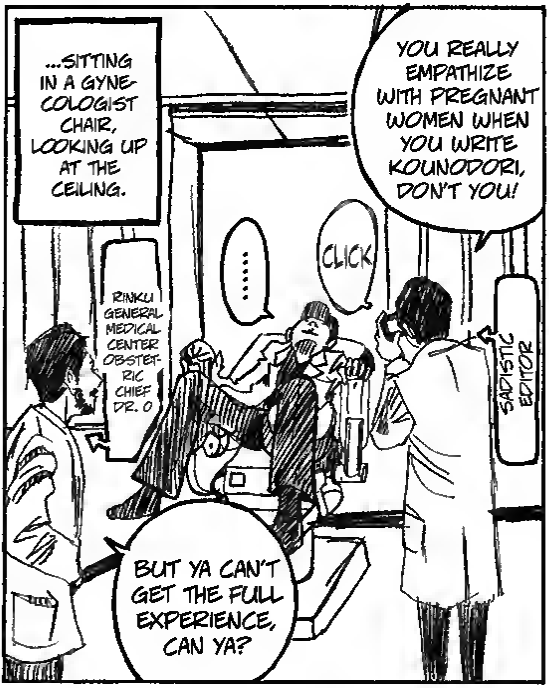


Thank you very much for reading Kounodon, Volume 1.
This isn't a manga I can do all by myself.

First, I'd like to thank my wife and my 5-year-old son.
My super spartan Editor, Mr K, who helped me with research.
Rinku General Medical Center Obstetric Chief Dr. O, who acted as a model for Kounodon.
The entire staff of Rinku.
My friend Dr. N, who always emails me information on obstetrics.
My assistans Min-chan, O-chan, N-numa-kun, Kouda-kun, K-kun, Nanarop, and Otsuki-kun.
And of course, all of you.
All these people helped Kounodori come to be. Thank you very much.

I'll keep up the good work!

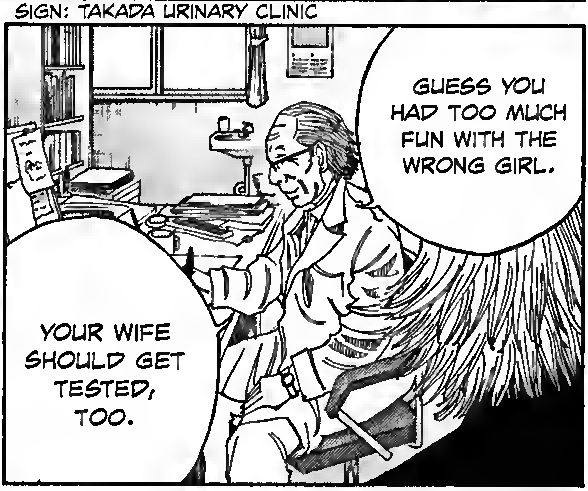
Suzunoki Yuu

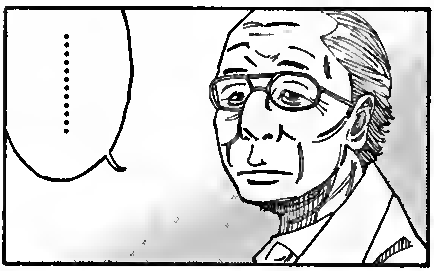

...SITTING IN A GYNE-COLOGIST CHAIR, LOOKING UP AT THE CEILING.
YOU REALLY EMPATHIZE WITH PREGNANT WOMEN WHEN YOU WRITE KOUNODORI, DON'T YOU!
CLICK
.....
RINKU GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER OBSTET-RIC CHIEF DR. O
SADISTIC EDITOR
BUT YA CAN'T GET THE FULL EXPERIENCE, CAN YA?

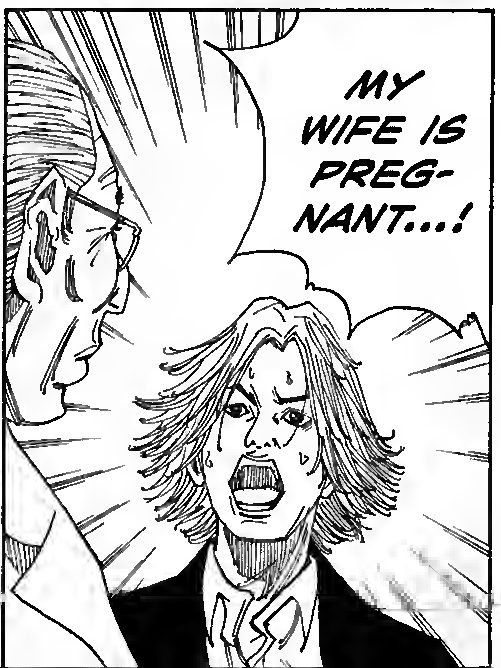
TRACK 3

GONORRHEA

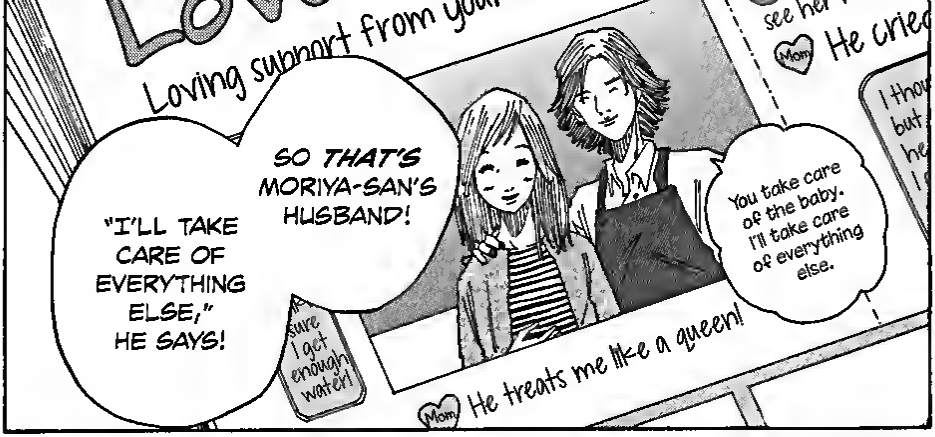
SIGN: TAKADA URINARY CLINIC

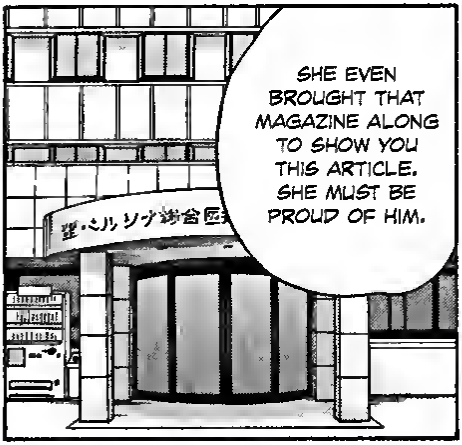


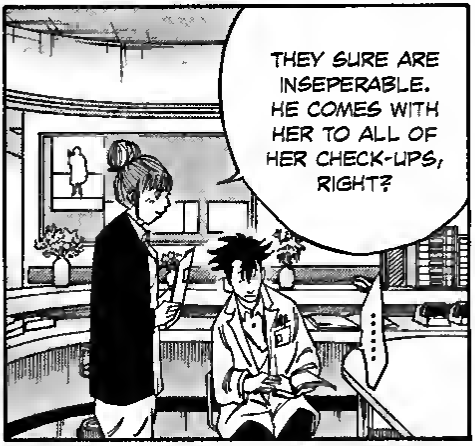




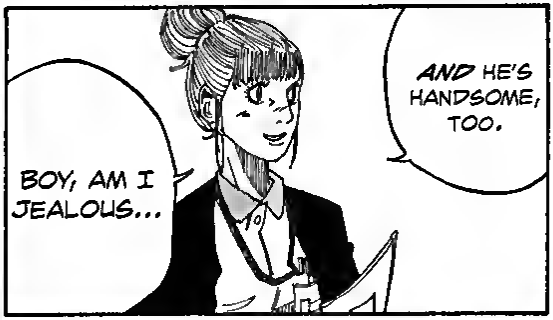
赤ちゃんへ。
妊娠したら
たまごクラブ
NG育児グッズランキング30
妊娠2～10カ月でやるべきこと★大百科
妊娠生活大百科


Loving support from you
see her
Mom He cried
I thou
but
he
You take care of the baby. I'll take care of everything else.
Mom He treats me like a queen!
SO THAT'S MORIYA-SAN'S HUSBAND!
"I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING ELSE," HE SAYS!
Sure I get enough water!

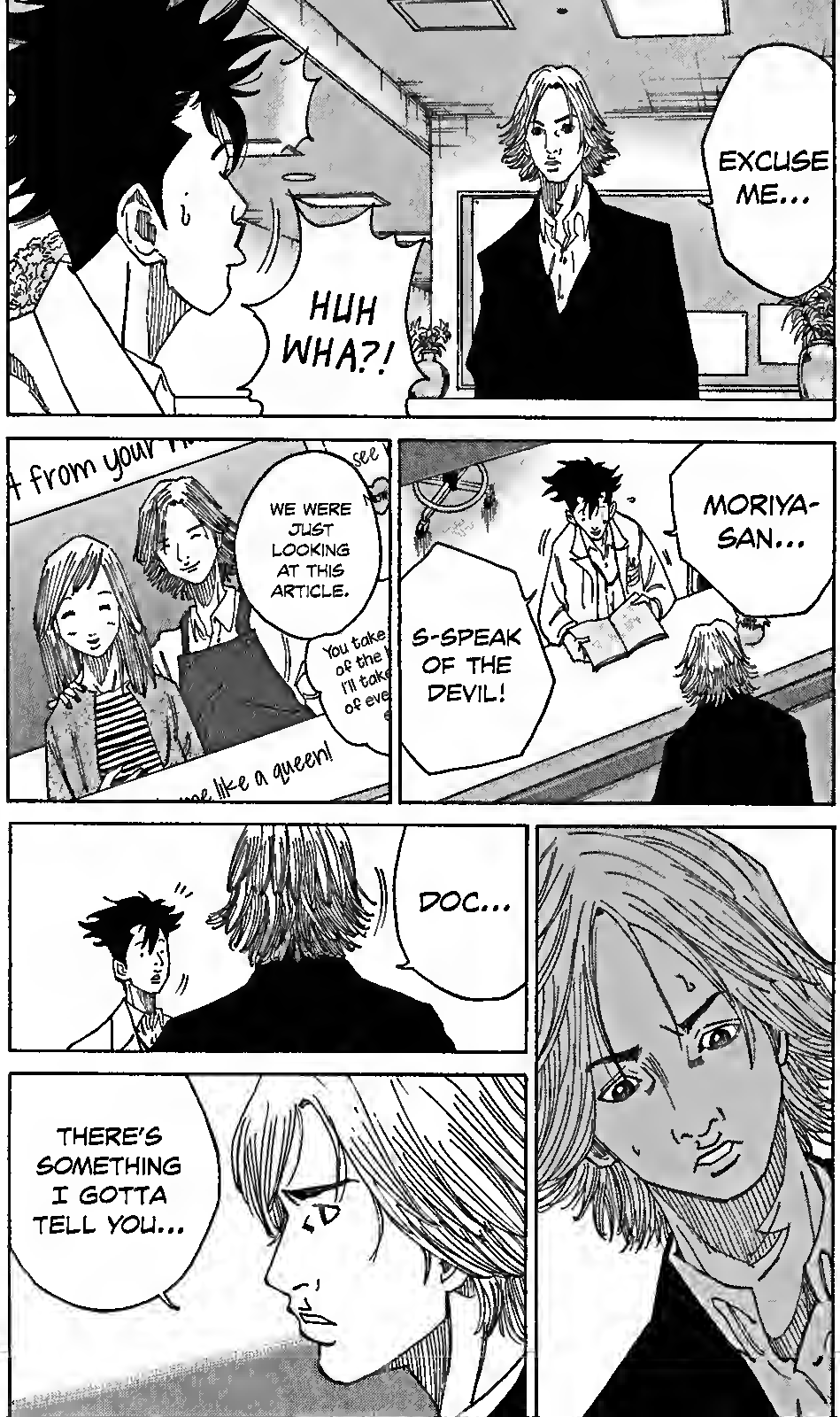

SHE EVEN BROUGHT THAT MAGAZINE ALONG TO SHOW YOU THIS ARTICLE. SHE MUST BE PROUD OF HIM.


THEY SURE ARE INSEPERABLE. HE COMES WITH HER TO ALL OF HER CHECK-UPS, RIGHT?

AHAHA, WOW, DOCTOR, THAT'S DARK!
HAHA, I'M KIDDING, I'M KIDDING.


AND HE'S HANDSOME, TOO.
BOY, AM I JEALOUS...

OH, I WOULDN'T BE.
GUYS LIKE THAT ALWAYS HAVE A DARK SIDE LURKING UNDERNEATH.


EXCUSE ME...
HUH WHA?!
MORIYA-SAN...
S-SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
WE WERE JUST LOOKING AT THIS ARTICLE.
DOC...
THERE'S SOMETHING I GOTTA TELL YOU...

...THAT CHEATING IS JUST PART OF OUR MODERN SOCIETY.
...DOC,
A WHILE BACK, SOMEONE TOLD ME...
...I'M SORRY, WHAT?
WOW, YOU CAN SEE THE TOKYO SKY TREE FROM HERE! IT'S PRETTY TALL, HUH...
DOC...
HE MEANS CHEATING ON HIS WIFE, RIGHT...?
IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY ANYTHING. STILL...

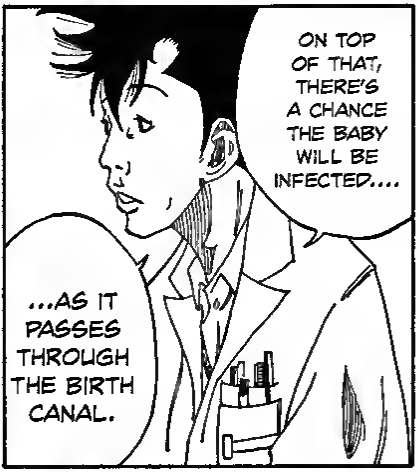
I HAVE GONORRHEA.
GONOR-RHEA...
WHAT?!
KH...
THE URINOLOGIST TOLD ME MY WIFE SHOULD GET TESTED ASAP...!
WELL... YES, SHE SHOULD.

SHE'LL KILL ME IF SHE FINDS OUT!
AH... I GOT IT!
YOU'RE A GUY, DOC!
YOU UNDER-STAND!
YOU CAN DO IT WITHOUT HER NOTICING,
RIGHT, DOC?
YOU CAN TEST HER FOR IT NEXT TIME SHE COMES IN FOR A CHECK-UP!
SORRY, I CAN'T.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!
I CAN'T TEST YOUR WIFE FOR GONORRHEA WITHOUT ASKING HER.
……
YES, I WOULD THINK SO.
SHIIIT...
BUT... SHE'S GONNA BE TOTALLY PISSED...
D-DO YOU THINK SHE'LL WANT A DIVORCE?!
...I WOULDN'T KNOW.

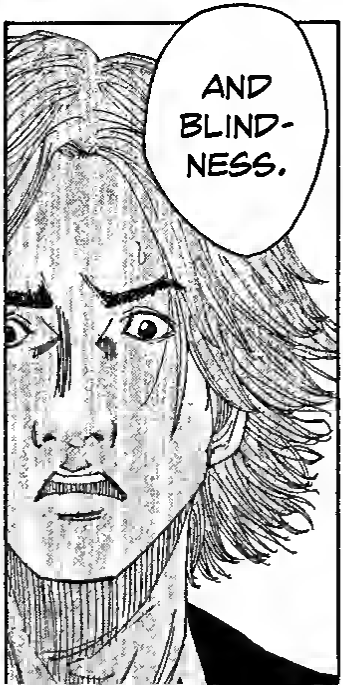
...IF YOUR WIFE HAS BEEN INFECTED WITH GONORRHEA,
THEN HER CHANCES OF MISCARRIAGE AND PRETERM BIRTH INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY.

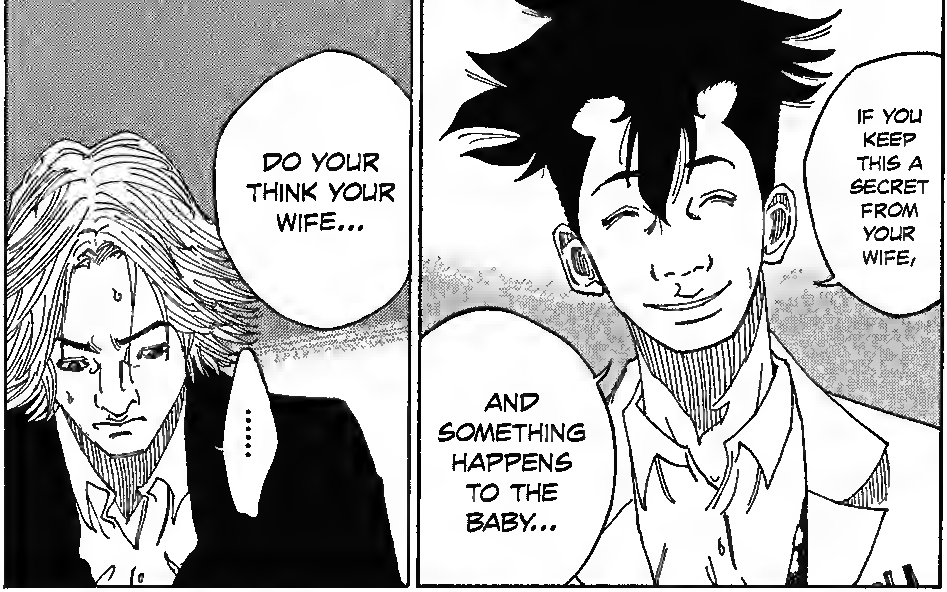
IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN,
THE BABY WILL BE AT RISK FOR PNEUMONIA, ARTHRITIS, AND SEPSIS... AND IN WORSE CASES, CONJUNCTIVITIS,
.....


ON TOP OF THAT, THERE'S A CHANCE THE BABY WILL BE INFECTED....
...AS IT PASSES THROUGH THE BIRTH CANAL.

THEN WE CAN TREAT IT NOW,
AND YOUR BABY WILL NOT BE AT RISK.

BUT YOUR WIFE IS ONLY FOUR MONTHS PREGNANT. IF SHE'S TESTED NOW, AND THE TEST COMES BACK POSITIVE FOR GONORRHEA,

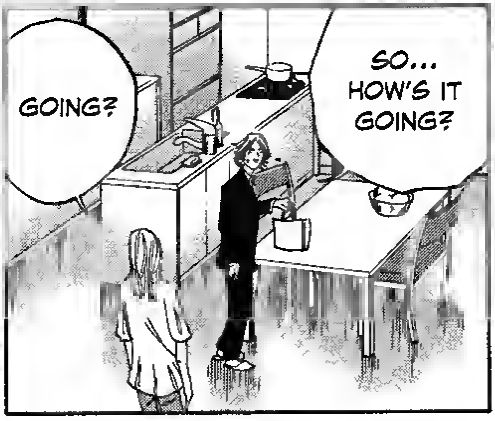

AND BLIND-NESS.

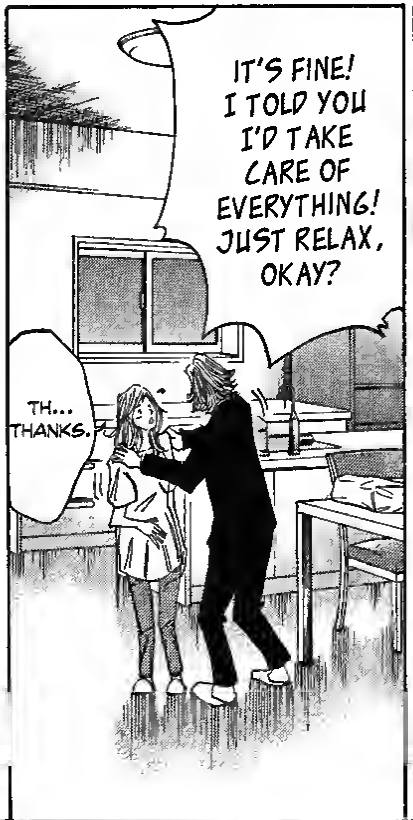

IF YOU KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM YOUR WIFE,
AND SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THE BABY...
DO YOUR THINK YOUR WIFE...
.....

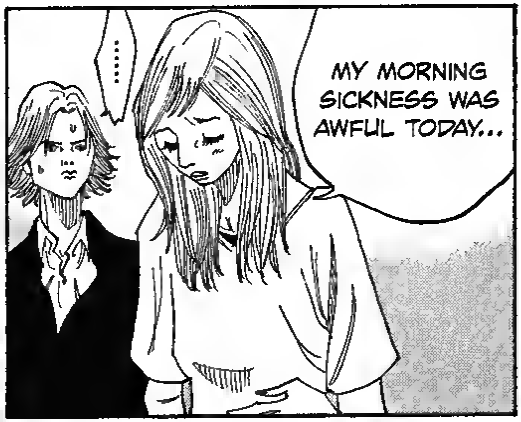
COULD EVER FORGIVE YOU?
...HE'S RIGHT...
中華そば 390円
カラオケ
BONK
BF

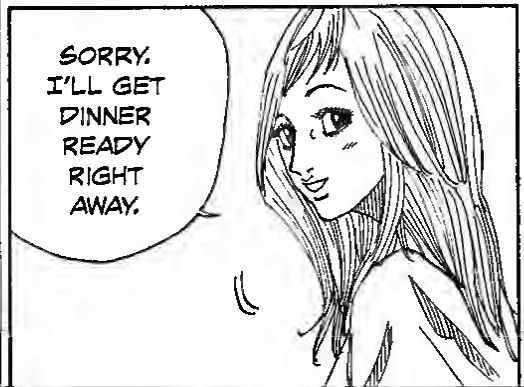
I'M HOME.
I bought strawberries
HI, HONEY.
Thanks

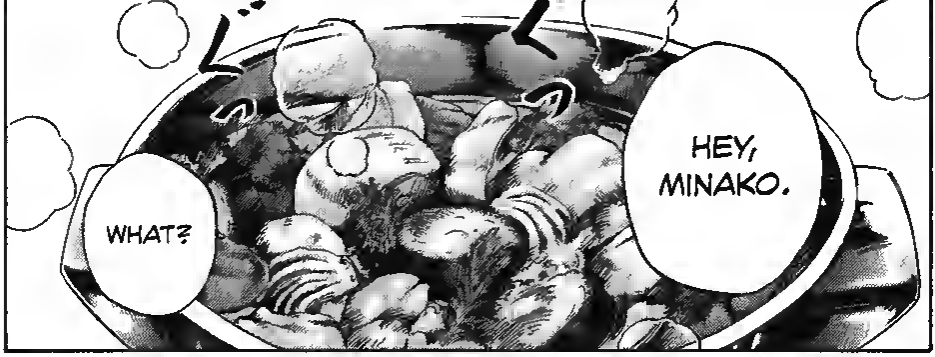
WELL... HOW'RE YOU FEELING, I GUESS.

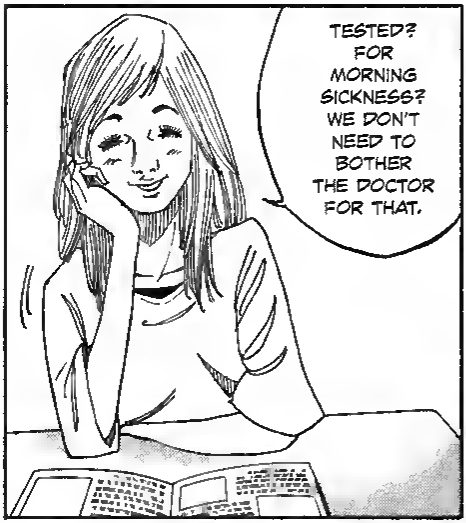

SO... HOW'S IT GOING?
GOING?

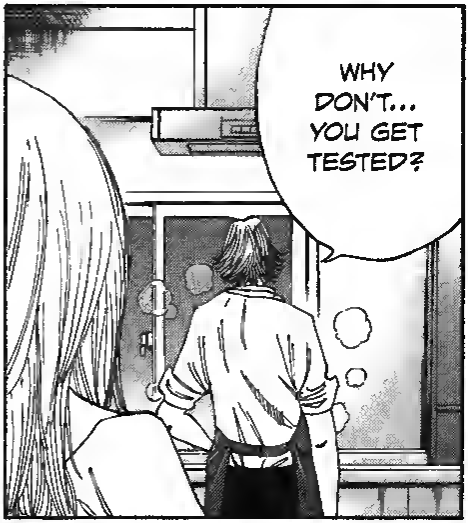

IT'S FINE! I TOLD YOU I'D TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING! JUST RELAX, OKAY?
TH... THANKS.


MY MORNING SICKNESS WAS AWFUL TODAY...


SORRY. I'LL GET DINNER READY RIGHT AWAY.


HEY, MINAKO.
WHAT?


TESTED? FOR MORNING SICKNESS? WE DON'T NEED TO BOTHER THE DOCTOR FOR THAT.

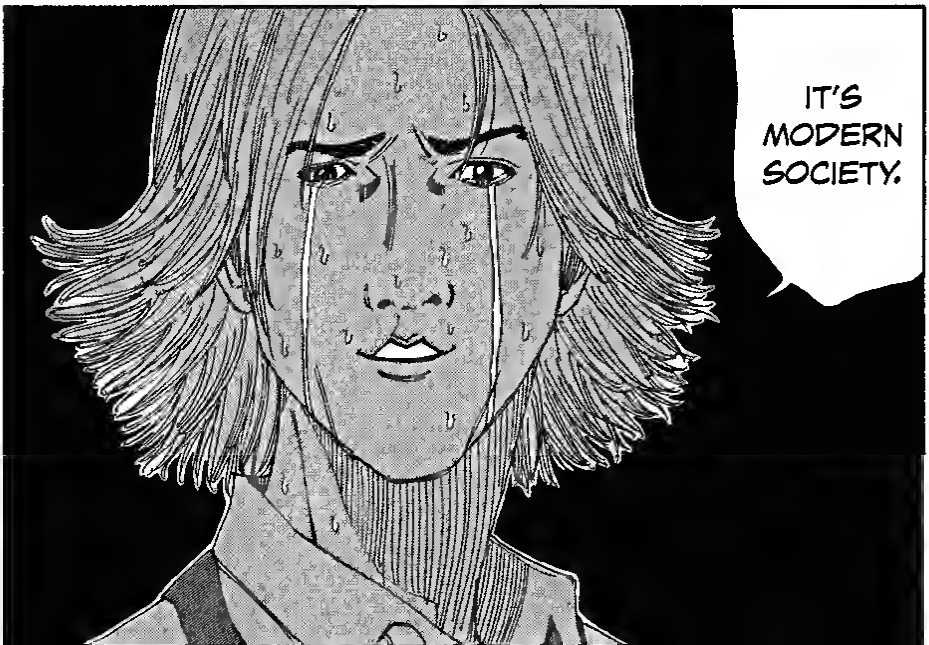

WHY DON'T... YOU GET TESTED?

I-I DIDN'T MEAN FOR MORNING SICK-NESS...
I MEANT FOR, YOU KNOW...

GH...
JEEZ, YOUR DADDY REALLY IS A BIG WORRYWART, ISN'T HE?

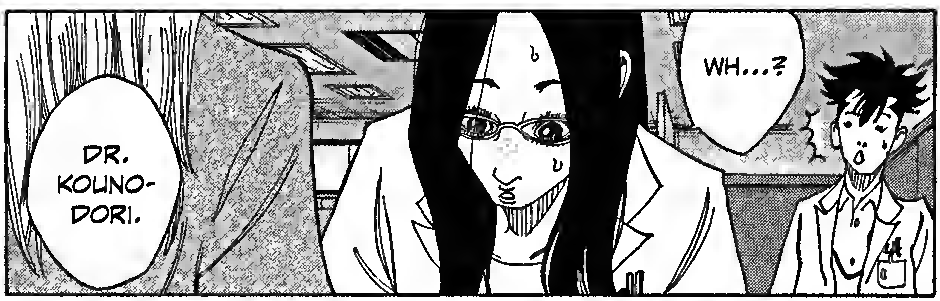
ビクッ
GONOR-RHEA.
……
HE SAID IF YOU'VE GOT IT, THEN THE BABY COULD BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
……
NO, WELL... A GUY AT WORK WAS TALKING, SEE...
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT, JUST...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET TESTED FOR IT TOO, JUST IN CASE, RIGHT?
SO I THOUGHT...

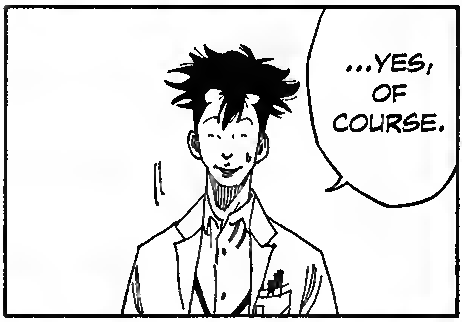
WHY THE FUCK SHOULD I GET TEST-ED?


IT'S MODERN SOCIETY.

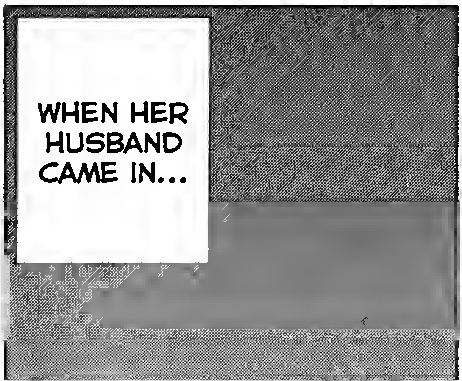
...EX-CUSE ME.
OH, MORIYA-SAN!
I WAS JUST READING THIS ARTICLE!
DR. KOUNODORI?
AH...
A GOOD LOOKING GUY WHO LOVES KIDS? YOU ARE SO LUCKY!
.....
WHOA, SHIMOYA, HOLD ON...
YOUR HUSBAND SOUNDS LIKE HE'LL BE THE BEST DAD EVER!

ビリ
夫の献

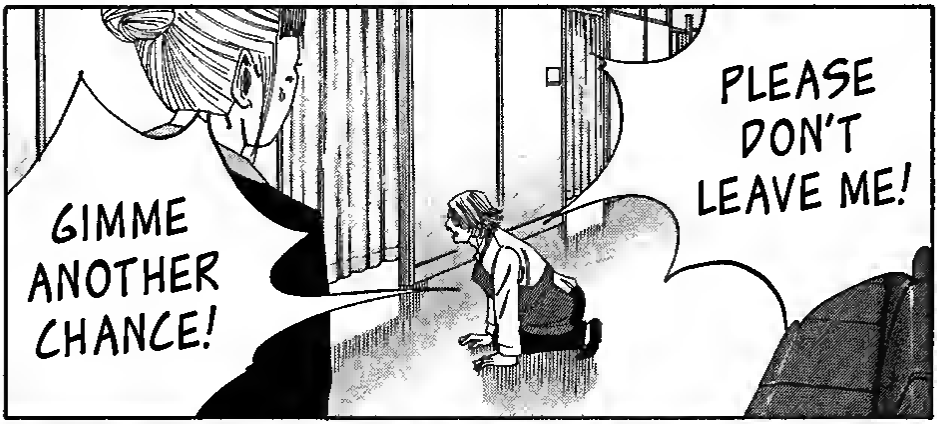

WH...?
DR. KOUNO-DORI.

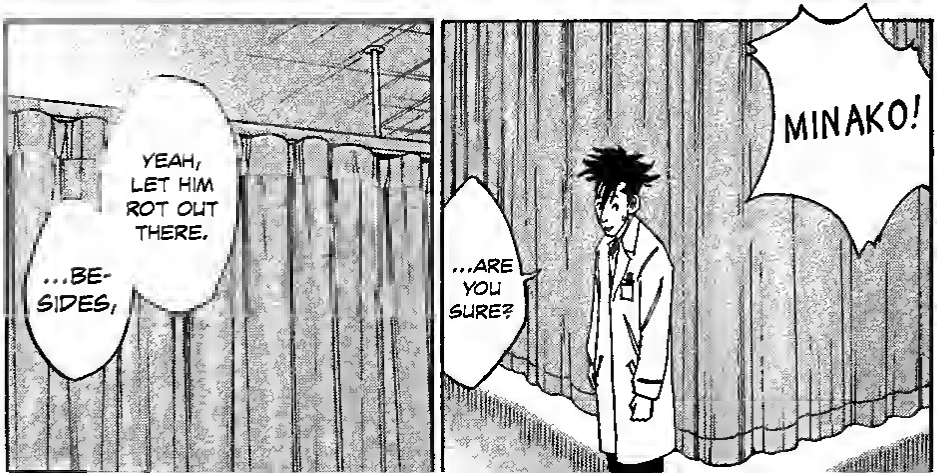

...YES, OF COURSE.

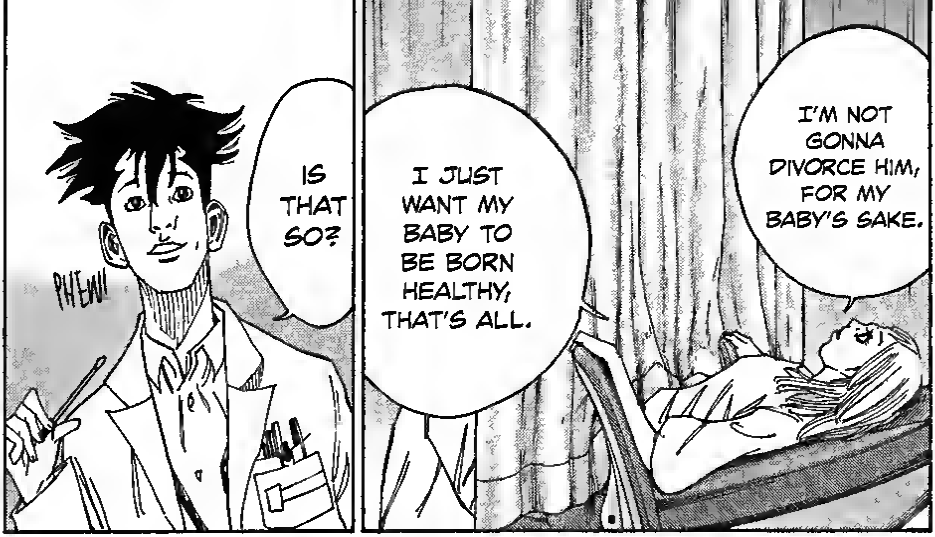
CAN YOU TEST ME FOR GONORRHEA? NOW?
ぐちゃ


WHEN HER HUSBAND CAME IN...

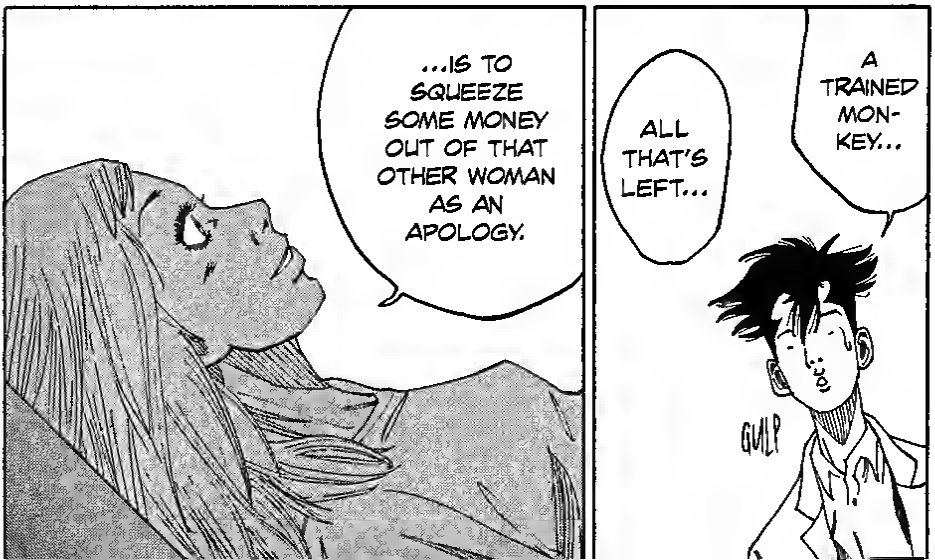
I AM SO SORRY, MINAKO!
I WAS STUPID!


PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME!
GIMME ANOTHER CHANCE!

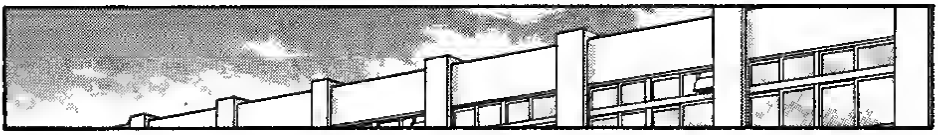

MINAKO!
...ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH, LET HIM ROT OUT THERE.
...BE-SIDES,

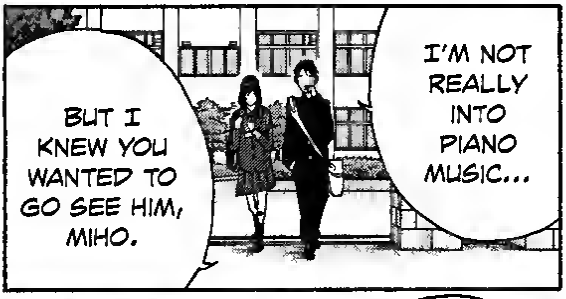

PHEW!
IS THAT SO?
I JUST WANT MY BABY TO BE BORN HEALTHY, THAT'S ALL.
I'M NOT GONNA DIVORCE HIM, FOR MY BABY'S SAKE.

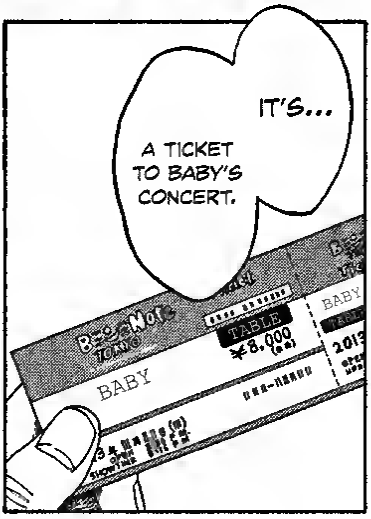
MINAKO! PLEASE...!
I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT MY HUSBAND.
HE'S NOTHING MORE THAN A TRAINED MONKEY THAT BRINGS MONEY HOME EVERY MONTH.


...IS TO SQUEEZE SOME MONEY OUT OF THAT OTHER WOMAN AS AN APOLOGY.
ALL THAT'S LEFT...
A TRAINED MON-KEY...
GULP

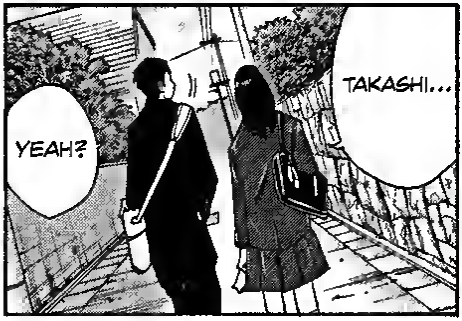
I FEEL... KIND OF BAD FOR HER HUSBAND.
REA-LLY?
MOTHERS ARE STRONG.
W-WAIT, MINAKO!
I FEEL WORSE FOR HER, PERSON-ALLY.
HE CHEATED ON HIS PREGNANT WIFE AND GOT AN STD ON TOP OF THAT.
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY, WHAT A SCUM-BAG...
YOU WERE JUST GUSHING ABOUT HOW HAND-SOME HE IS...
HE'S WORSE THAN A SCUMBAG. HE'S A FULL-BLOWN ASSHOLE! WHAT A PIECE OF SHIT!
...YEAH.
WOMEN ARE TERRIFYING.

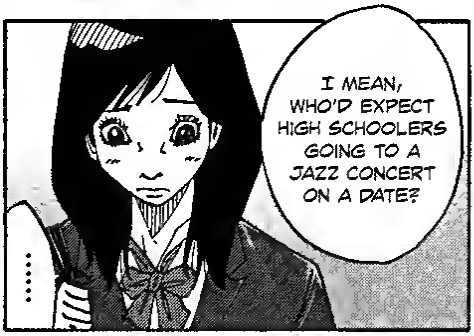



I'M NOT REALLY INTO PIANO MUSIC...
BUT I KNEW YOU WANTED TO GO SEE HIM, MIHO.


IT'S...
A TICKET TO BABY'S CONCERT.
TABLE
¥8,000
BABY

WE MUST BE PRETTY MATURE, HUH?


TAKASHI...
YEAH?


I MEAN, WHO'D EXPECT HIGH SCHOOLERS GOING TO A JAZZ CONCERT ON A DATE?
.....

I'M...
.....
PREG-NANT.

Kounotori: The Stork

presented in English by Futari wa Pretty Anon

Translation & Typesetting by AnonBlack
Cleaning & Redraws by Arthruil

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My son's rendition of
the characters from Kinnikuman.
The big one is Nakano-san.

TENTA,
AGE 4